

# FOIA MARKER

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**OA/ID Number:** 5924  
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**Folder Title:**  
First Lady's Trip Files: China (Beijing): Ms. Patricia Solis Director of Scheduling for First Lady

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	White House Pre-Advance Team Visit - Team Members (1 page)	8/1996	b(7)(E)
002. agenda	White House Pre-Advance Team - Participants in Various Site Visits (2 pages)	8/1995	b(7)(E)
003. list	FLOTUS Pre-Advance: China World Hotel Room Listing (1 page)	n.d.	b(7)(E)

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Clinton Presidential Records  
 First Lady's Office  
 Trip Files - Tour Memorandums, China, Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand  
 OA/Box Number: 5924

### FOLDER TITLE:

First Lady's Trip Files: China (Beijing): Ms. Patricia Solis Director of Scheduling for  
 First Lady

2006-0198-F  
 wr790

### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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**VISIT OF WHITE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM TO BEIJING  
AUGUST 4-6, 1995**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4:**

- 1350 WHEELS DOWN in Beijing (from Bangkok) , via MilAir (C-20) - Met by  
A/DCM Boorstein and POLOFF Moy**
- 1355 DEPART Airport  
EN ROUTE Forbidden City**
- 1430 Site Survey - Forbidden City**
- 1530 DEPART Forbidden City  
EN ROUTE Beijing International Convention Center (BICC)**
- 1600 Site Survey of BICC**
- 1700 DEPART BICC  
EN ROUTE China World Hotel**
- 1730 Arrive China World Hotel - Check-in**
- 1800 - DOWN TIME**
- 1930 China World Hotel**
- 1930 DEPART China World Hotel  
EN ROUTE Charge's Residence**
- 1945 Working Dinner  
Charge's Residence**
- 2130 DEPART Charge's Residence  
EN ROUTE China World Hotel (Remain Overnight - RON)**

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**VISIT OF WHITE HOUSE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM  
TO BEIJING, AUGUST 4-6, 1995**

**LIST OF CHINESE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING TEAM  
ON SITE VISITS**

**CHINESE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Wan Si Quan - Under Secretary General**

Mr. Wan is the senior Chinese official from the Organizing Committee who has been designated as the "host" for the team in Beijing. He speaks some English and the Organizing Committee will provide an interpreter.

(Note: Mr. Wan will meet the Pre-Advance Team on Friday, August 4, at the Beijing International Convention Center. On Saturday, August 5, he will meet the Pre-Advance Team for lunch at the Long Shan Hotel in Huai Rou, followed by the tour of the NGO Forum Site.)

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The following officials will accompany the Pre-Advance Team to ALL site visits on August 4 and 5 (they will have their own transportation):

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Protocol Department**

**Ms. Liu Xizhen - First Secretary**

**Ms. Zhang Pei - Officer**

**International Affairs Department**

**Ms. Jiang Zin - Officer**

**Interpreter**

**Ms. Xu Hui**

All of the above officials speak English

**VIP PROTECTION BUREAU**

**Col. Jiang Baoyuan - Division Chief**

**Col. Ming Cheng Li**

**VISIT OF WHITE HOUSE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM  
TO BEIJING, AUGUST 4-6, 1995**

**COLLECTION FOR NO-HOST MEALS**

I. Working Dinner at Charge's Residence, Friday, August 4

Cost per person - 100 RMB (approximately \$12)

II. Banquet Lunch at Long Shan Hotel, Saturday, August 5

Cost per person - 200 RMB (meal plus estimate of drinks).

Embassy staff will collect 300 RMB from each member of the Pre-Advance Team at the time of check-in at the China World Hotel, Friday, August 4 at 5:30 p.m.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Site: The Forbidden City & Palace Museum

Time: Friday, August 3 at 2:30 p.m.

Chinese Points Of Contact:

1. Ms. Zhang Yu Yan: liaison for foreign visitors  
(tel. 513-2255 ext. 401)
2. Ms. Qin Feng Jing: guide for our visit  
(tel. 513-2255 ext. 407)

USG Site Officer: Jeffrey Moon (tel. 532-3831 ext. 576)

The Embassy has arranged for the pre-advance team to enter through the Meridian Gate, which is south of the Forbidden City and just off Tiananmen Square. Site officer and our Chinese guide, Ms. Qin, plan to pre-purchase tickets and meet the group at the entrance.

Ms. Qin will guide the group through the Forbidden City and the Palace Museum. At the conclusion of her tour, the group will exit through the northernmost gate in the complex, the Gate of Divine Prowess. The group will then proceed via USG vehicle to the Convention Center.

Background materials on the Forbidden City and Palace Museum are attached.

UNCLASSIFIED



## SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS: THE FORBIDDEN CITY

The following material was gathered from Lonely Planet: China. Please refer to this guide for additional details.

The Forbidden City, so called because it was off limits for 500 years, is the largest and best preserved cluster of ancient buildings in China. It was home to two dynasties of emperors, the Ming and the Qing, who didn't stray from this pleasure-dome unless they absolutely had to.

The Forbidden City is open daily except Mondays, from 0830 to 1700. Two hundred years ago the admission price would have been instant death, but this has dropped considerably to RMB 12 for foreigners and RMB 0.50 for Chinese. Student discounts are available, but there are additional charges for some of the special exhibition halls. Just inside the gate, for RMB 20 you can rent a cassette tape player and tape for a self-guided tour -- this requires a RMB 100 deposit. You must enter the Forbidden City from the south gate and exit from the north.

The basic layout was built between 1406 and 1420 by Emperor Yong Le, commanding battalions of labourers and craftspeople -- some estimate up to a million of them. From this palace the emperors governed China, often rather erratically as they tended to become lost in this self-contained little world and allocated real power to the court eunuchs. One emperor devoted his entire career to carpentry -- when an earthquake struck, an ominous sign for an emperor, he was delighted since it gave him a chance to renovate.

The buildings now seen are mostly post-18th-century, as with a lot of restored or rebuilt structures around Beijing. The palace was constantly going up in flames -- a lantern festival combined with a sudden gust of Gobi wind would easily do the trick, as would a fireworks display. There were also deliberate fires lit by court eunuchs and officials who could get rich off their repair bills. The moat around the palace, now used for boating, came in handy since the local fire brigade was considered too common to quench the royal flames. Some of the emperors enjoyed the spectacle of fires, but Emperor Jiajing was so disturbed by them that he ordered a hall built in honor of the "Fire-Pressing God". Three fires caused by lightning broke out during his reign, including the biggest bonfire of the lot in 1557. A century later, in 1664, the Manchus stormed in and burned the palace to the ground.

It was not just the buildings that went up in smoke, but rare books, paintings, calligraphy, anything flammable. In this century there have been two major lootings of the palace: first by the Japanese forces, and second by the Kuomintang, who on the eve of the Communist takeover in 1949 removed thousands of crates of relics to Taiwan, where they are now on display in Taipei's National Palace Museum -- considered one of the top three museums in the world. The gaps have been filled by bringing treasures, old and newly discovered, from other parts of China.

The palace is so large (720,000 sq. meters, 800 buildings, 9000 rooms) that a permanent restoration squad moves around repainting and repairing. It's estimated to take about 10 years to do a full renovation, by which time the beginning is due for repairs again. The complex was opened to the public in 1949.

The palace was built on a monumental scale, one that should not be taken lightly. Allow yourself a full day for exploration, or perhaps several separate trips if you're an enthusiast. The information given here can only be a skeleton guide; if you want more detail then tag along with a tour group for explanations of individual artifacts. There are plenty of Western tour groups around, and overall the Forbidden City gets 10,000 visitors a day. Tour buses drop their groups off at Tiananmen and pick them up again at the north gate; you can also enter the palace from the east or west gates. Even if you had a separate guidebook on the Forbidden City, it would be rather time-consuming to match up and identify every individual object, building and so forth -- a spoken guide has more immediacy.

On the north-south axis of the Forbidden City, from Tiananmen at the south to Shenwumen at the north, lie the palace's ceremonial buildings.

Restored in the 17th century, Meridian Gate (Wumen) is a massive portal which in former times was reserved for the use of the emperor. Gongs and bells would be sounded upon royal comings and goings. Lesser mortals would use lesser gates -- the military used the west gate, civilians used the east gate. The emperor also reviewed his armies from here, passed judgment on prisoners, announced the new year calendar and surveyed the flogging of cheeky ministers.

Across Golden Stream, which is shaped to resemble a Tartar bow and is spanned by five marble bridges, is Supreme Harmony Gate (Taihemen). It overlooks a massive courtyard that could hold an imperial audience of up to 100,000.

Raised on a marble terrace with balustrades are the Three Great Halls, the heart of the Forbidden City.

The Hall of Supreme Harmony (Taihedian) is the most important and the largest structure in the Forbidden City. Built in the 15th century and restored in the 17th century, it was used for ceremonial occasions such as the emperor's birthday, the nomination of military leaders, and coronations. Flanking the entrance to the hall are bronze incense burners. The large bronze turtle in the front is a symbol of longevity and stability -- it has a removable lid and on special occasions incense was lit inside so that smoke billowed from the mouth. To the west side of the terrace is a small pavilion with a bronze grain-measure and to the east is a sundial; both are symbolic of imperial justice. On the corners of the roof, as with some other buildings in the city, you'll see a mounted figure with his retreat cut off by mythical and real animals, a story that relates to a cruel tyrant hung from one such eave. Inside the hall is a rightly decorated Dragon Throne where the emperor would preside (decisions final, no correspondence entered into) over trembling officials. The entire court had to hit the floor nine times with their foreheads; combine that with thick veils of incense and battering of gongs and it would be enough to make anyone dizzy. At the back of the throne is a carved Xumishan, the Buddhist paradise, signifying the throne's supremacy.

Behind Taihedian is the smaller Hall of Middle Harmony (Zhonghedian) which was used as a transit lounge for the emperor. Here he would make last-minute preparations, rehearse speeches and receive close ministers. On display are two Qing Dynasty sedan chairs, the emperors' mode of transport around the Forbidden City. The last of the Qing emperors, Puyi, used a bicycle and altered a few features of the palace grounds to make it easier to get around.

The third hall is the Hall of Preserving Harmony (Baohedian) used for banquets and later for imperial examinations. It now houses archaeological finds. The Baohedian has no support

pillars, and behind it is a 250-ton marble block carved with dragons and clouds which was moved into Beijing on an ice path. The outer housing surrounding the Three Great Halls was used for storing gold, silver, silks, carpets and other treasures.

The basic configuration of the Three Great Halls is mimicked by the next group of buildings, smaller in scale but more important in terms of real power. In China, real power traditionally lies at the back door, or in this case, the back gate.

The first structure is the Palace of Heavenly Purity (Qianqinggong), a residence of Ming and early Qing emperors, and later an audience hall for receiving foreign envoys and high officials.

Immediately behind it is the Hall of Union, which contains a clepsydra -- a water clock with five bronze vessels and a calibrated scale. Water clocks date back several thousand years but this one was made in 1745. There's also a mechanical clock on display, built in 1797, and a collection of imperial jade seals.

At the northern end of the Forbidden City is the Imperial Garden, a classical Chinese garden of 7000 sq. meters of fine landscaping, with rockeries, walkways and pavilions. A good place to take a breather, with snack bars, WCs and souvenir shops. Two more gates lead out through the large Gate of Divine Military Genius (Shenwumen).

North of Shenwumen and outside the present confines of the Forbidden City is Coal Hill (Jingshan Park), which contains an artificial mound made of earth excavated to create the palace moat. If you clamber to the top pavilions of this regal pleasure garden you get a magnificent panorama of the capital and a great overview of the russet roofing of the Forbidden City. On the east side of the park is a locust tree where the last of the Mings, Emperor Chongzhen, hanged himself (after slaying his family) rather than see the palace razed by the Manchus. The hill supposedly protects the palace from the evil spirits -- or dust storms -- from the north, but didn't quite work for Congzhen.

The western and eastern sides of the Forbidden City are the palatial former living quarters -- once containing libraries, temples, theaters, gardens, even the tennis court of the last emperor. These buildings now function as museums and often require separate but nominal admission fees. Opening hours are irregular and no photos are allowed without prior permission. Special exhibits sometimes appear in the palace museum halls -- check with China Daily for details.

On the western side of the Forbidden City, towards the north exit, are the six Western Palaces which were living quarters for the empress and the concubines. These are kept in pristine condition, displaying furniture, silk bedcovers, personal items, and fittings such as cloisonne charcoal burners.

Of particular interest is the Palace of Eternal Spring (Changchungong), decorated with mural scenes from the Ming novel "A Dream of Red Mansions". This is where the Empress Dowager Cixi lived when she was still a concubine.

Nearby is the Hall of Mental Cultivation (Yangxindian), a private apartment for the emperors. It was divided into reception rooms, a study where important documents were signed and a bedchamber at the rear.

On the eastern side of the city, six more palaces duplicate the rhythms and layout of those on the west. There are museums here for bronzes, ceramics, and Ming Dynasty arts and crafts. Further east is a display of gold and jade artifacts and Ming and Qing paintings, sometimes augmented with Song and Yuan paintings. Just south, protecting the gateway to two of the palaces, is the polychrome Nine Dragon Screen built in 1773.

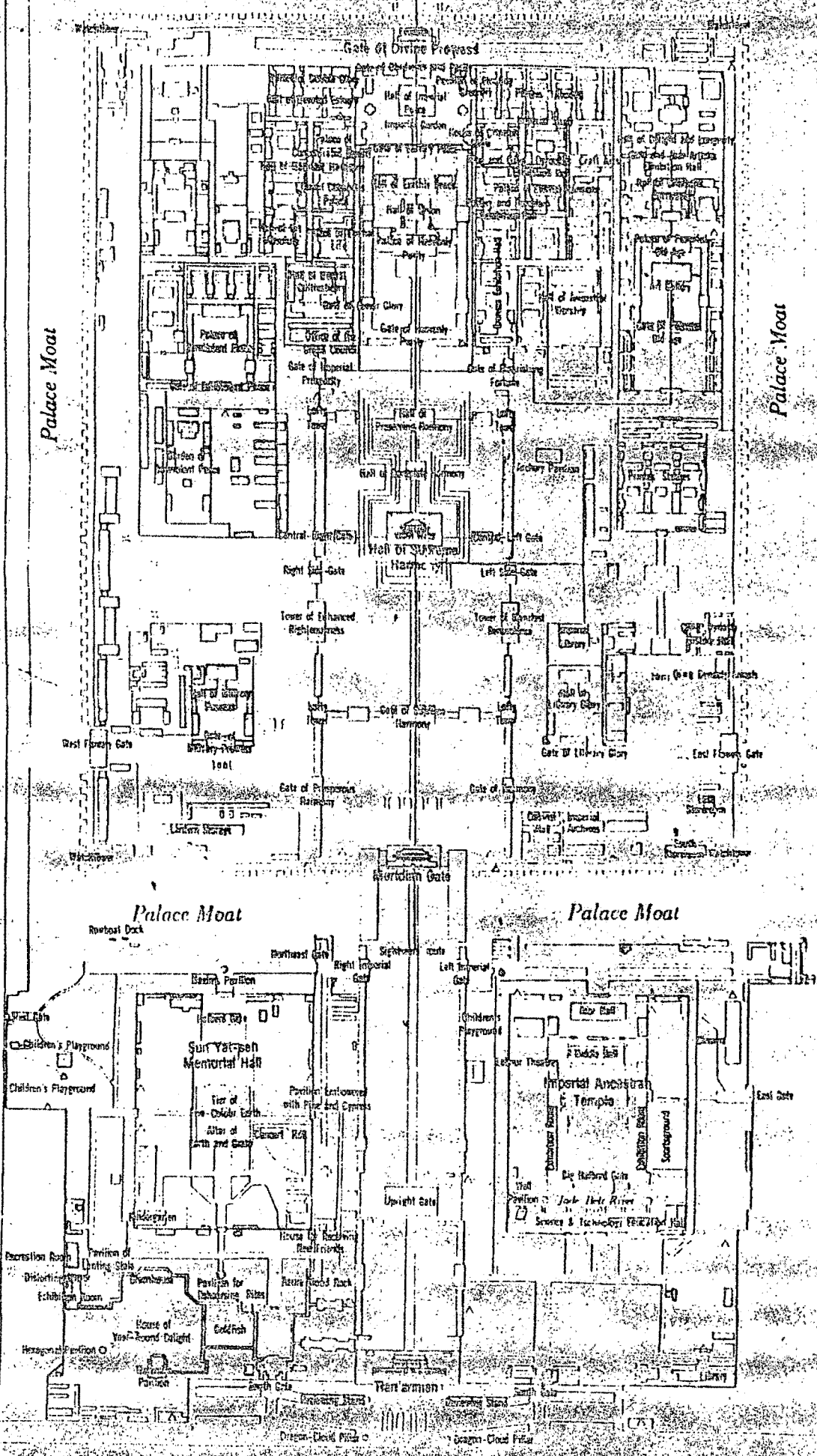
A few more interesting aspects of the Forbidden City include the watchtowers at the four corners of the city which stand on top of the walls. Structural delights, they have three stories, are double-roofed and measure 27.5 meters high.

Zhongshan Park, otherwise known as Sun Yatsen Park, is in the southwest of the Forbidden City and was laid out at the same time as the palace. Here you'll find the Altar of Land and Grain, which is divided into five sections, each filled with earth of a different color (red, green, black, yellow and white) to symbolize all the earth belonging to the emperor. There is also a concert hall and a "modernization" playground in the park.

The Workers' Cultural Palace in the south-east sector of the Forbidden City is a park with halls dating from 1462 which were used as ancestral temples under the Ming and Qing; they come complete with marble balustrades, terraces and detailed gargoyles. The park is now used for movies, temporary exhibits, cultural performances and the odd mass wedding. There's boating at the north end and skating in winter on the frozen moat.



ingshan Park  
on the Altar of  
rain of the Ming  
dynasties. Ancient  
and halls and  
rockeries, and  
ark the area.  
purs have been  
liberation, and  
cultural and  
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nomic value. It  
e places where  
people gather  
celebrations and  
their holidays.



## Gugong (Palace Museum)

Gugong (Palace Museum), located on the grounds of the former Forth City, covers the imperial palaces of Ming and Qing dynasties. These palaces have a history of 550 years dating from their completion during the Ming. Covering an area of 720,000 square m. with more than 9,000 rooms occupying floor space of 150,000 square metres, form the most extensive and complete ensemble of traditional Chinese structures extant. In the finest of Chinese architectural style, the halls reflect the wisdom and talent of the Ming people of that day. Since liberation the Communist Party and the People's Government have carried out large-scale repair and exerted great effort in collecting cultural and art objects, cataloguing, identifying them and putting them on display.

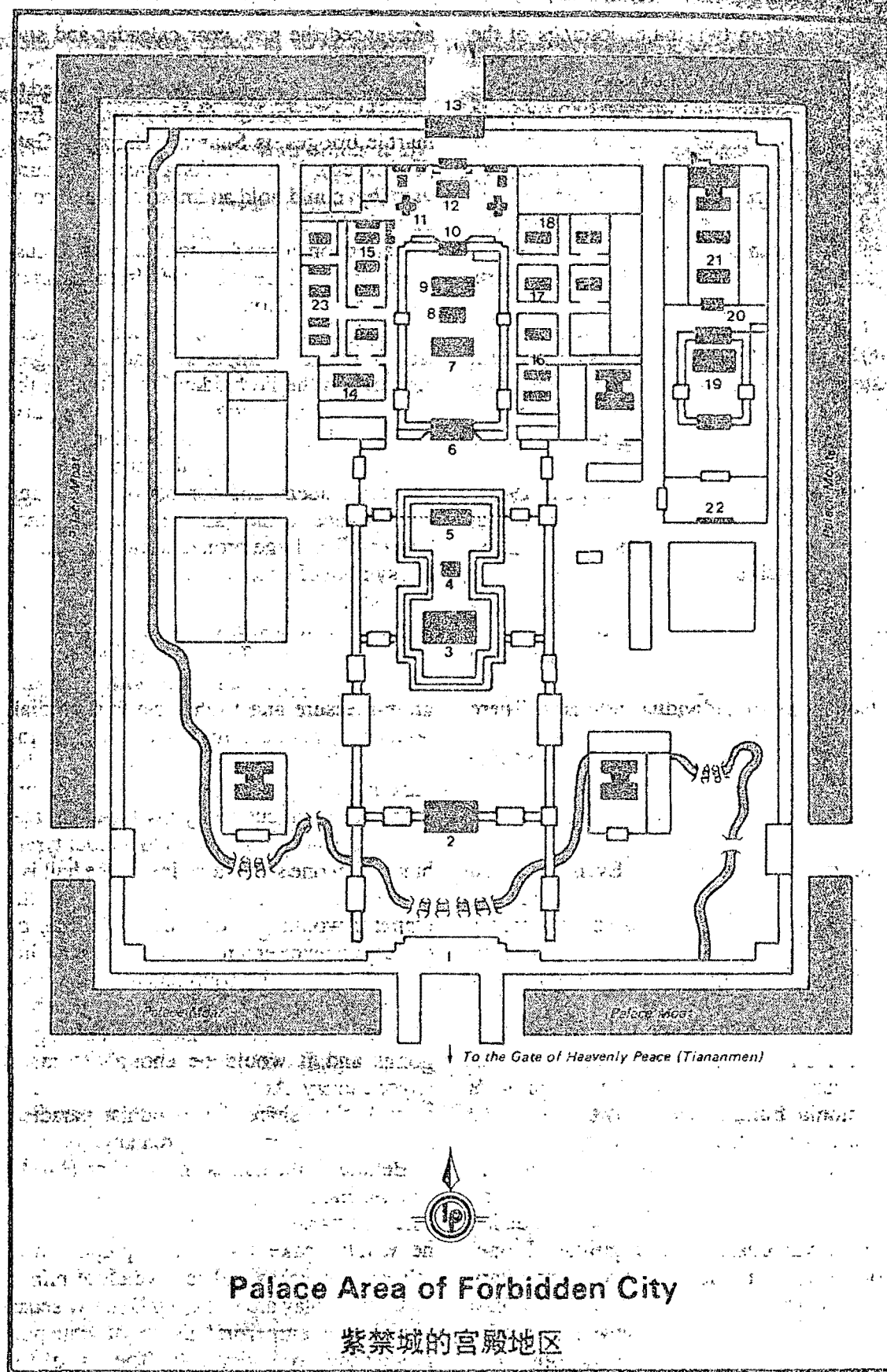
## Working People's Cultural Palace

The Working People's Cultural Palace was converted, in 1950, from Imperial Ancestral Temple of the Ming and Qing dynasties. A library, some exhibition rooms, a theatre, a cinema and a recreation centre were made out of the ancient halls. A sportsground was also built. Flower gardens brighten the green expanse, pines and cypresses, while the many visitors enliven this ancient imperial temple.

## LEGEND

- 17 Reading room
- 18 Photo gallery
- 19 Refreshments
- 20 Restaurant
- 21 Toilet







- 1 Meridian Gate (Wumen)
- 2 Supreme Harmony Gate (Taihemen)
- 3 Hall of Supreme Harmony (Taihedian)
- 4 Hall of Middle Harmony (Zhonghedian)
- 5 Hall of Preserving Harmony (Baohedian)
- 6 Gate of Heavenly Purity (Qianqingmen)
- 7 Palace of Heavenly Purity (Qianqinggong)
- 8 Hall of Union (Jiaotaidian)
- 9 Palace of Earthly Tranquility (Kunninggong)
- 10 Imperial Garden
- 11 Thousand Autumns Pavilion
- 12 Hall of Imperial Peace
- 13 Gate of Divine Military Genius (Shenwumen)
- 14 Hall of Mental Cultivation (Yangxindian)
- 15 Western Palaces Nos 16, 17 & 18 (residential palaces now used as museums)
- 16 Exhibition of Bronzes
- 17 Exhibition of Ceramics
- 18 Exhibition of Ming & Qing Dynasty Arts & Crafts
- 19 Exhibition of Paintings (Hall of Imperial Supremacy)
- 20 Hall of the Cultivation of Character
- 21 Exhibition of Jewellery (Hall of the Cultivation of Character)
- 22 Nine Dragon Screen
- 23 Palace of Eternal Spring (Changchungong)

- 1 午门
- 2 太和门
- 3 太和殿
- 4 中和殿
- 5 保和殿
- 6 乾清门
- 7 乾清宫
- 8 交泰殿
- 9 坤宁宫
- 10 御花园
- 11 千秋亭
- 12 钦安殿
- 13 神武门
- 14 养心殿
- 15 宫廷史迹陈列
- 16 青铜器馆
- 17 陶瓷馆
- 18 明清工艺美术馆
- 19 绘画馆
- 20 养性殿
- 21 珍馆
- 22 九龙壁
- 23 长春宫

China

war. The Chinese Communist Party called on the people's army to go to the enemy's rear to launch guerrilla warfare, mine warfare, etc. War educated the people and the people won the war.

#### 8. Successful Crossing of the Yangtze River

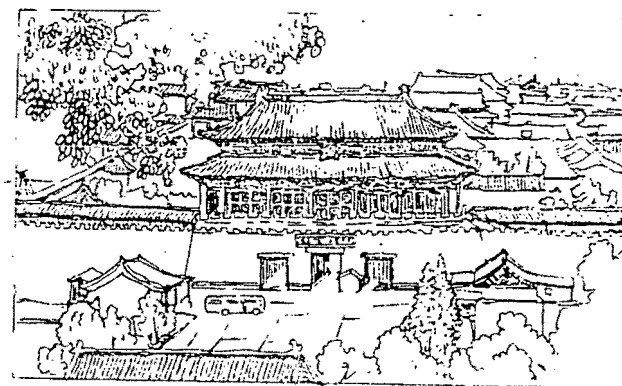
This was the prelude to the liberation of the whole country. An army one million strong made a forced crossing of the Yangtze River on April 21, 1949 to overthrow the Chiang Kai-shek regime.

On the right are the masses helping the PLA men to make the crossing. On the left are the liberated Nanjing people welcoming the entrance of the PLA men. The liberation of the Kuomintang capital heralded the liberation of the whole country.



COPY

## 2. THE PALACE MUSEUM



The Palace Museum, known as the Forbidden City, was the imperial palaces of the Ming and Qing dynasties. In early 15th century, large-scale construction involved 100,000 artisans and one million civilians. The construction took 14 years and was finished in 1420. In the following year, the capital of the Ming Dynasty was moved from Nanjing to Beijing. Twenty-four emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties ruled from the Forbidden City. The last dynasty fell in 1911, but Emperor Puyi still lived in the inner court. It was not until 1925 that the complex was converted into a museum. Since then the

palace has been opened to the public.

The Palace Museum is located in the centre of Beijing, covering an area of 72 hectares. It is rectangular in shape, 960 metres long from north to south and 750 metres wide from east to west. There is a 10-metre-high wall, encircled by a 52-metre-wide moat. In the Ming Dynasty, the timber needed for building the palace was brought mostly from Sichuan, Hunan and Guizhou provinces, while in the Qing Dynasty, it was cut from northeast China. Most of the stones were quarried from the suburban county of Fangshan and other districts. Construction of the Forbidden City brought tremendous hardship to the labouring people.

The palace is the largest piece of ancient Chinese architecture still standing. Some of the buildings were damaged by lightning and rebuilt in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The palace had been expanded several times, but the original layout was preserved.

After liberation, some costly renovations were done and the Palace Museum is listed as one of the important historical monuments under special preservation by the Chinese Government.

### The Meridian Gate

This is the main gate of the Purple Forbidden City. The purple color was symbolically attributed to the North

Star, and it was used here to show that the imperial residence was a cosmic centre. The emperor believed that the Meridian line went through the city. The gate was also nicknamed the "Five-Phoenix Tower," in which drums (on the east) and bells (on the west) were installed. When the emperor went to the Temple of Heaven, bells were struck to celebrate this important occasion. When he went to the Ancestral Temple, it was made known to the public by beating drums.

The gate has five openings. The central passage was reserved for the emperor alone. High-ranking civil and military officials went in through the side gate on the east and royal family members on the west. The further side gates were for petty officials. Celebrations of victories, ceremonies of "accepting" prisoners of war and announcement of the new calendar all took place here. In the Ming Dynasty, this was also the place where the emperor punished high officials. The offending officials would be taken out of the gate and beaten with sticks. It was recorded that in 1524, 134 men were beaten on one single occasion and 17 died on the spot.

Now we approach the Five Marble Bridges on Golden Water River. The bridges were supposed to represent the five virtues preached by Confucius—benevolence, righteousness, rites, intelligence and fidelity. They were shaped like five arrows reporting symbolically to Heaven.

because the emperor considered himself the Son of Heaven.

The buildings on the east were the Imperial Secretariat and the Chronicler's Office where the daily activities of the emperor were recorded by scholars. The buildings on the west were for translators.

### The Gate of Supreme Harmony

This gate is guarded by a pair of bronze lions, symbolizing the imperial power. In ancient times, lions were supposed to be good door-keepers and put at the gate to ward off evil spirits. Lions are frequently seen in front of buildings as guardians, one playing with a ball (male) and the other a cub (female). It was considered auspicious. The ball is said to represent imperial treasury or peace. The cub sucks milk from underneath the claw, because the female doesn't have breasts.

Now we are at the Gate of Supreme Harmony, the gate leading to the palace court. The emperors of the Ming Dynasty attended to state affairs and summoned their ministers for consultations here. In the Qing Dynasty, state affairs were handled in the inner court.

Proceeding to the north, you can see a vast courtyard, 30,000 square metres in area. Flanking the courtyard are 33 room-units on each side. They were used as warehouses for storing fur, porcelain, silver, tea, satin and clothes, etc.

In the courtyard there are iron vats for storing water against fire. In the whole complex there are altogether 318 water vats, 18 of them gilded. Most of them were made in the Ming Dynasty. On the roofs of these buildings, you can see lightning arresters installed in 1953. The roofs are of yellow glazed-tiles, as yellow was the color reserved for the emperor. The Forbidden City was heavily guarded, yet the emperor still did not feel secure and was worried that someone might tunnel his way into the palace. So, the ground bricks were laid in a special way: seven layers lengthwise and eight layers crosswise, making up fifteen layers in all.

On the triple marble terrace you find eighteen bronze incense burners. They represented the eighteen provinces in the Qing Dynasty. On this huge terrace stand three big halls: the Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Hall of Complete Harmony and the Hall of Preserving Harmony, all lying on the north-south axis. Each terrace is higher than the other, encircled by marble balustrades carved with dragon and phoenix designs. From the edge of the terraces jut out heads of mythical monsters, which serve both as decorations and rain-pouts. They stand out as works of art, whether seen from afar or close by.

There are three staircases leading to the Hall of Supreme Harmony, the central one was reserved for the

emperor. He was carried in a sedan-chair up the marble ramp, which was covered with red carpet on big occasions. The side staircases were for others.

On the terrace to the east stands a sun-dial. It could be used when there was sunlight. People looked at the markings of time on its upper part in summer and on its lower part in winter. To the west there is a little pavilion in which a copper grain measure was kept. The measure was used as the national standard in the Qing Dynasty, but it was always in favour of the ruling class. The grain measure and the sun-dial were symbols of imperial justice and rectitude. The dragon-headed tortoises and storks, a pair of each kind, were incense burners. The tortoise was a symbol of longevity and strength while the stork represented longevity.

Looking up, you see mythical animals on the upturned eaves of the building. In ancient times, there used to be big wooden nails to prevent the tiles from sliding. They were replaced by glazed tiles which were later shaped into mythical animals, such as the dragon, the pheonix, the lion, the heavenly horse, etc. They were supposed to be capable of guarding against fire and keeping away evil spirits.

These are gilded bronze water vats, two on each side. When the allied forces of the eight powers invaded Beijing in 1900, the alien troops scraped the gold

off the vats with their bayonets.

## The Hall of Supreme Harmony

This is the throne hall, built in 1420. It was renovated and retouched several times after liberation. It was used for ceremonies which marked great occasions: the Winter Solstice, the Chinese New Year, the Emperor's birthday and enthronement, and the dispatch of generals to battles. On such occasions, there would be an imperial guard of honour standing in front of the hall and extending to the main gate.

The base and the throne are carved out of sandalwood. The throne was a symbol of imperial power. The floor is paved with bricks. It took 136 days to bake. They were then immersed in tung oil for a permanent polish.

When you look up you can see "Zaojing", or coffered ceiling. It was placed over the throne and served as architectural decoration. It was designed to create an aura of solemnity and mystery. In the middle of the ceiling is a dragon playing with pearls. They are made of glass, painted with mercury, representing sunlight.

The last Qing Emperor Puyi was born in 1906. He ascended the throne in 1908 at the age of three. He was so scared during the coronation that he kept crying. He

shouted: "I don't want to stay here, I want to go home." His cry extremely upset the dignified atmosphere. His father tried to soothe him, saying "It'll soon be finished, it'll soon be finished." Three years later, the feudal system collapsed that had lasted for more than 2,000 years. However, he stayed in the palace for another 13 years until 1924 when he was driven out of the palace. The remaining 470 imperial eunuchs and 100 palace maids were freed and he moved into his father's princely mansion with his wife and imperial concubine.

A few months later, he left for Tianjin and disguised himself as a Japanese merchant. After Japanese aggression of northeast China in 1931, Puyi was made a puppet emperor of "Manzhouguo" with Changchun as its capital. He was captured by the Soviet Red Army in 1945 and was sent back to China in 1950. He was imprisoned for almost 10 years until 1959 when he was given amnesty.

The former emperor then turned over a new leaf, and was assigned a job in the Institute of Botanical Garden under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. He lived 61 years and died of cancer in 1967.

### **The Hall of Complete Harmony**

This hall is square in shape, with windows on all sides. It served as an ante-chamber. The emperor came

here to make his last minute preparations. Final touches were given to the message to be read in the Ancestral Temple. The seeds intended for spring sowing were also examined here.

### **The Hall of Preserving Harmony**

Architecturally, this hall has no supporting pillars in its front part, something typical of Ming architecture. In the Qing Dynasty, banquets were given on new year's eve in honour of Mongolian princes and high-ranking officials. The imperial examinations were held here. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, there were three levels of exams: the county and prefectural level, the provincial level and the national level. The national level exam was presided over by the emperor. The civil service exams in China started in the Han Dynasty. It served the purpose of recruiting Confucian scholars to be ministers and high officials. During the centuries of disunity that followed, the Han Dynasty system of selecting officials by exam went out, and men were appointed, not on merit but by favour and nepotism. The examination system came back and was established again in the Tang Dynasty. It continued until 1905. The Qing Dynasty took over the ancient system of imperial examination. Once every three years, three hundred scholars from all over the country came to Beijing and joined the exams for three days and

three nights in this hall. The exams were so rigid that competitors sometimes went insane or died of exhaustion. Those who failed sometimes took poison and threw themselves off the high balconies. Those who passed would get honorable titles and become high officials.

### **Marble Ramp Carved with Cloud and Dragon Designs**

This is the largest piece of stone carving in the palace, a work of the Ming period. It is 16.57 metres long, 3.07 metres wide and 1.7 metres thick, and weighs about 250 tons. The emperor was carried in a sedan-chair over the marble ramp. No one was allowed to set foot on it. Most of the stone used in building the palace was from Fangshan and other counties. It was very difficult to transport such a big piece of stone here. The labouring people were so ingenious that they invented a method of shipping it over ice. Wells were sunk every half a kilometre, and water was brought up and poured on the ground to make a road of ice in winter. Rolling logs were used in summer. Twenty thousand people were involved in shipping this stone all the way from Fangshan Mountains 70 kilometres away from Beijing.

### **Office of the Privy Council**

These rooms used to be the Office of the Privy Council,

set up during the reign of Yongzheng, the third Qing Emperor. It assisted the emperor in dealing with routine military and political affairs.

### **Hall of Mental Cultivation**

There were ten emperors in the Qing Dynasty. Eight of them lived in this compound. After Emperor Yongzheng moved in from the Palace of Heavenly Purity, most of the important policies were decided in this hall. The central room was used for receiving officials and foreign envoys. The shelves were for keeping government documents. In the western chamber the emperor read reports submitted by officials and discussed military and political affairs with them. The partition was to prevent the secret talks between the emperor and ministers from leaking out. The eastern room was originally a bed-chamber, but towards the end of the Qing Dynasty, Empress Dowager Cixi "gave audience behind the screen" in this room, or controlled power behind the throne. At these audiences, the boy emperor sat in front of the Empress Dowager, separated by a screen. Kneeling on a carpet, the ministers made their reports. The boy emperor was just a puppet and a word from the Empress Dowager was enough to decide the matter. It was here that the Qing Government signed the document of abdication after the Revolution of 1911.

The dethroned Emperor Puyi continued to live in this compound for thirteen years.

These small rooms along the gallery used to be the residence for imperial concubines.

In the courtyard stands a huge piece of crystal which was supposed to be a symbol of the emperor's character.

### Empress Dowager Cixi

Empress Dowager Cixi was born in 1835. Her name was "little orchid." Her father was a gentleman-in-waiting of the Qing court. In 1851 she was one of the 28 Manchu girls selected for Emperor Xianfeng, who gave her a new name, Cixi, meaning "Holy Mother." She was made a concubine of the fifth rank when she was seventeen years old. After she gave birth to a son, the only son of the Emperor, she was made a concubine of the second rank. Emperor Xianfeng died in 1861 and their six-year-old son succeeded the throne the following year. She was now the empress dowager. She started as a prodigy in the art of intrigue and built power based on the eunuchs.

While the boy Emperor sat in the throne, she sat behind him with a screen in between and told him what to say and what to do. This practice is known in the Chinese history as "giving audience behind a screen" or power behind the throne. Her son died of small pox at the age

of 19. Then she put her sister's 4-year-old son on the throne, whom she dominated and tormented. Empress Dowager Cixi had three ambitions: pleasure, power and luxury. To usurp power she invited Empress Cien, the first wife of the Emperor, to dinner and poisoned her to death.

In 1898, the Empress Dowager brutally suppressed the 100-day Reform, a reform movement launched by well-known scholars that won the support of Emperor Guangxu. She declared that she would "rather lose the country than carry out the reform." After the failure of the Reform Movement, Emperor Guangxu was put under house arrest. The Empress Dowager died in the Forbidden City at the age of 73. Before she died she put Emperor Puyi, another 3-year-old child, on the throne. The 1911 Revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen overthrew the Qing Dynasty that lasted for 267 years.

### Gate of Heavenly Purity

This is the gateway leading to the inner court. It was erected in 1429 and rebuilt in 1655. The Qing emperors sometimes gave audience to government officials here.

On the east were study rooms for the emperor's children. On the west were offices for guards and eunuchs.

In front of the Palace of Heavenly Purity, there are



two small miniature temples, one standing on each side of the courtyard, and is surmounted by a sort of gilded tabernacle. The one on the east was called Jiangshan Pavilion representing territorial integrity. The one on the west is Sheji, the God of Land and Grain, a symbol of bumper harvest.

### The Palace of Heavenly Purity

The emperors lived in this palace in the Ming and early Qing dynasties. After the reign of Emperor Yongzheng, the building was used as an audience chamber for receiving envoys from vassal states who presented their tributes to the emperor. Foreign ambassadors were also received here. The big mirrors and red candles are all part of the original furniture. The mirror was for vanity purpose and warding off evil spirits. On the west was the emperor's cloak room. It was also used for holding mourning service before the remains of his deceased predecessor. The wedding ceremony of the last emperor Puyi was held here in 1922.

Far back on the wall you see a plaque bearing an inscription which reads "Be open and above-board," written by the first emperor of the Qing Dynasty. When the peasant insurgents broke into Beijing towards the end of the Ming Dynasty, the last Ming Emperor Chongzhen fled from here to the Coal Hill Park where he hanged

himself.

### Hall of Union and Peace

In this building the Qing emperors conferred honourable titles on their empresses. The empresses also held their birthday celebrations here. Since Emperor Qianlong's reign (1736-1795), 25 jade seals representing imperial authority have been kept in this room. Twenty-five was regarded as a heavenly number.

On the east is a water clock made in 1745. Water clocks had been used for quite a long time before the mechanical clock was introduced into China. The method of keeping time by the dripping of water was invented by the Chinese people more than 2,500 years ago. The time-piece consists of five bronze vessels. Each vessel has a small hole at the bottom. When the uppermost vessel is filled with water, water begins to drip evenly through the holes. There is a figurine in the lowest container. The calibrated scale in his hands floats with the rising water, and time is indicated on the markings.

To the west is a chiming clock made in 1789 by the Works of Department of the Board of Imperial Household.

The plaque carries two Chinese characters *wu wei*. *Wu wei* is Taoist philosophy, meaning adapt oneself to the change of nature. The feudal ruler used this idea to

discourage people from taking action.

### Palace of Earthly Tranquility

The empresses lived here in the Ming Dynasty. The table and the big vats were used for sacrifices to the God of the Kitchen. The room on the eastern side was the wedding chamber. It is entirely painted in red and decorated with "double happiness." The bride and the bridegroom stayed here for two nights and then resided in their living quarters.

A total of 5.5 million taels of silver was spent on the wedding of Emperor Guangxu. Puyi, the last Qing emperor, also got married here.

### Imperial Garden

The Imperial Garden was built in the Ming Dynasty. It occupies an area of 7,200 square metres. The trees and rockeries, the pavilions and terraces, all date from the Ming and Qing dynasties. The walks are paved with pebbles and neatly laid out in beautiful patterns.

The artificial hill is called the Mount of Collecting Excellence. In the old days, it was customary for the Chinese people to climb the hills on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month to avoid epidemics. It was said that epidemics ran rampant on that day. However, the emperor and the empress were carried up the rockery in

sedan chairs to watch the beautiful scenery while the eunuchs carried buckets of water up to make the fountain. Now the fountain is supplied by running water.

### Nine-Dragon Screen

This Nine-dragon Screen was erected in 1773, 6 metres high and 31 metres long. The dragons romping in the sea are different in colour and posture. A peculiar interest is that a piece of the third dragon from the left is made of wood. The story goes like this: when the Nine-dragon Screen was completed, a piece of glazed-tile fell and was broken. The following day, the ministers in charge were to come for inspection. That was the deadline. It was impossible to make another piece to match it. The craftsmen couldn't do anything about it but asked carpenters to make a wooden one to replace it. During the inspection nothing was found wrong on the screen. That is why this piece of the Nine-dragon Screen is made of wood. There are three nine-dragon screens in China. The other two: one in Beihai Park and the other in Datong, Shanxi Province. Nine was regarded as the symbol of supremacy. The Nine-dragon Screen was used as a decoration and was supposed to ward off evil spirits.

### Hall of Imperial Zenith

The whole group of buildings here was built for

Qing Emperor Qianlong to relax after abdication. Emperor Qianlong was 85 years old and his physical condition prevented him from doing the job any longer. One of his sons was over sixty and would soon miss the chance to be emperor. So he decided to let his son try. The old emperor abdicated in 1795 and four years later he died. This hall was left empty almost for a century. After the Empress Dowager Cixi came to power, performances by folk opera troupes were given here. Now the building is turned into an exhibition hall.

### Treasure Halls

Before seeing the artifacts in the treasure halls you may enjoy the two pinus bungeanes (white bark pines) in the courtyard. They lose their barks all the year round but not their leaves.

There are three treasure rooms, one behind the other.  
**The First Room**

These are milk containers. The Manchu drank a lot of milk.

These hanging screens are made of gold and precious stones.

Others are dinner sets made of gold, silver, jade and crystal.

In this showcase are a pair of mythical animals (called *lu*) used as incense burners and a pair of column-shaped

incense burners. They are made of gold. It is said that the mythical animal could travel 9,000 kilometres a day and know everything in the world. Usually this kind of incense burner was placed by the side of the throne, supposed to be a symbol of the emperor's intelligence.

Here are 16 gold chimes, weighing totally more than 400 kilos. Each weighs differently, so it sends out different tone when struck. In 1924 these chimes were taken to Tianjin by the dethroned Emperor Puyi. After liberation they were sent back to Beijing and put on display.

This is a 6.8 kilo gold seal conferred by Emperor Guangxu to his favorite concubine Zhenfei. She was also known as the Pearl Consort. The knob of the seal is shaped like the body of a tortoise and the head and tail of a dragon. This kind of tortoise-shaped knob was a standard for imperial concubines.

In ancient China, the tortoise was considered an auspicious animal. The dragon was the symbol of imperial power.

*Ruyi*, a good luck scepter, was developed from a back scratcher, originated from the Eastern Jin Dynasty about 1,500 years ago. The scepter is about half a metre long and made of metal, stone, bone, jade, coral or lacquer, etc. It was given as a gift and served as a sym-

bol of good wishes for the prosperity and longevity of the recipient. *Ruyi* means: "may your wish come true."

These are **jade chimes**, ancient musical instruments. They were used on big occasions.

The **portable incense burners**: When the emperor went out, they were carried by four eunuchs walking ahead and another four behind, keeping the air always pleasant to him.

These are sacrificial wine vessels and gold bowls.

Here is a **gold tower** weighing more than 100 kilos. It was used only to keep the fallen hair of Emperor Qianlong's mother.

This **hanging screen** is made of gold, showing a cassia tree.

The new-born prince had his first bath in this gold basin three days after birth. The basin has a phoenix design in the middle. This room was formerly the emperor's residence.

#### The Second Room

The **jade jar** means that the emperor's happiness was as endless as water in the Eastern Sea.

The **jade mountain** means that the emperor's life was as long as the old pine in the Southern Mountain.

In the eastern room you will find pavilions, towers and pagodas made of gold, inlaid with precious stones. They were gifts for the concubines. The emperor had many

wives, so after he died many of the young women became widows. With nothing to do, they prayed for long life. They were all very particular about the decorations of their own altars.

Here you can see the **seven treasures**: namely, gold, silver, jade, pearl, sea shell, diamond, jadeite; and the eight magic weapons of wheel, spiral shell, umbrella, lid, lotus flower, jar, fish and intestine. They were Buddhist emblems usually found in the lama temples.

The **dragon robe** was worn by Emperor Qianlong when he gave an audience. It was woven with peacock feathers adorned with pearls and coral beads.

This is an **armour** worn by the Emperor when he reviewed the military parade. It weights more than 15 kilos.

The **hair pins** were for the empresses and concubines.

These are the imperial beads and pearls worn by the emperor on big occasions. They originated from Songhua River in Heilongjiang Province.

Here is a woven **ivory mat**. The tusk was peeled into thin strips, then softened in some kind of chemical agents before weaving. It is a pity that the method of making was lost! The tusks were gifts from Burma. They are two metres long, and weigh 50 kilos each.

This is a huge piece of **jade carving**. It shows how Yu the Great of the Xia Dynasty led the people in har-

nessing the Yellow River. It weighs 5 tons and was mined in Xinjiang, Northwest China. It was shipped all the way to Beijing and Yangzhou for carving and then shipped back to Beijing again. Mining, transportation and carving took ten years altogether. During Emperor Qianlong's time 3,000 people were involved each year to mine 15,000 kilos of jade for the court.

The daggers in the showcase were used by the emperor for self-defence.

This room was the place where Emperor Qianlong composed poems and celebrated his birthdays.

#### The Third Room

Here you see a jade assemblage in the showcase. It was a birthday gift for Empress Dowager Cixi from her ministers. A mint of money was spent on her 60th birthday celebration when China was suffering from the tragic defeat in the Sino-Japanese War.

#### The Well of Zhenfei

In 1900 the allied forces of the eight powers were approaching Beijing. Before she fled to Xi'an, the Empress Dowager ordered the eunuchs to push the imperial concubine Zhenfei into this well and drown her.

#### Watchtower

On your right is a watchtower. In the Forbidden City there are four watchtowers, one at each of its four corners. This structure consists of a triple-eaved roof,

9 main beams, 18 columns and 72 ridgepieces. It is 27.5 metres high.

It is said that one day some architects happened to see a peddler selling katydid cages in the street. The structure of the cage was so sophisticated that the architects were inspired to imitate its design in building the watchtowers.

#### Gate of Military Prowess

This is the back gate of the Forbidden City. On its tower are bells and drums beaten in the morning and in the evening respectively to mark time.

The gate was formerly called Xuanwumen Gate and Emperor Kangxi's name happened to be "Xuanye". Under feudal etiquette, the mention of the emperor's name was a taboo. So it was renamed Shenwumen Gate when it was reconstructed in the 17th century.



## BEIJING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

The Beijing International Convention Center (BICC) is located nine kilometers north of Tiananmen Square in the Asian Games Village. With a floor space of 77,000 square meters, BICC is the principal venue for the 4th World Conference on Women (4WCW). It consists of the Conference Building, Chenxin House, Chenyun House, and the East Annex to the Conference Building.

### Conference Building

The Conference Building covers 52,600 square meters. Located on the second and third floors, Hall 1 serves as the main conference facility and can hold up to 2,500 people depending on its configuration. It offers facilities for simultaneous interpretation in eight languages, television projection, film and slide projectors, and stage lighting. Adjoining Hall 1 is a VIP/holding room (Rm. 2016), and there are additional VIP rooms on the 1st and 3rd floors. The United Nations work area and offices will be located on the 5th floor.

### Continental Grand Hotel

Connected to BICC by a covered passageway, the Continental Grand (Wuzhou Dajiudian) has 1,200 rooms. The Embassy has rented work space for the American delegation here.

### Recreation Center

The Recreation Center (Kangle Zhongxin) is the sole designated venue where 4WCW delegates and NGO forum participants can mingle. It is located in a separate building next to the Continental Grand.

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SUBJECT: Site Summary for China World Hotel -- Visit of White House Pre-Advance Team to Beijing, August 4-6, 1995

SITE: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, 100004  
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CHINA WORLD CONTACT: Adele Lin, Sales Manager, Tel. 505-2266,  
x6289, FAX 505-3165

The China World has handled several high-level delegations for the U.S. Embassy and is willing to assist with any/all arrangements necessary. The China World has a Business Center available for guests (a list of services available is attached). When entering the hotel, the Business Center is in the far left corner.

The China World has an extensive range of suites, banquet rooms and conference rooms available. These listings, including amenities, size and price range, will be given to Mr. Eric Brown for the Team.

In addition to the above-reference FAX number, the China World has installed additional facsimiles within their Message Center. Those numbers are: 505-3176, 505-0828, 505-3167 and 505-3168. If additional information is needed, please contact the Message Center at extension 22.

Restaurants within the China World Hotel, La Fleur, the Summer Palace, and the Coffee Garden, are very good and are frequented by Embassy personnel. La Fleur is a french restaurant located just above the lobby (take the steps next to the elevator). The prices at La Fleur are steeper in price than most other restaurants, but worth every cent. The Summer Palace restaurant is located off of the main lobby and specializes in Cantonese cuisine. During the lunch hour, The Summer Palace offers very good dim sum (small Chinese snacks) for a light change of pace. The Coffee Garden is located off of the main lobby and carries a full range of meals (western and asian), also providing a buffet at breakfast and lunch. The Coffee Garden is open late into the evening.

The China World Trade Center includes a grocery store (the "Wellcome") and an extensive shopping area. The escalator to the Trade Center is located next to the Business Center.

The luggage call on Sunday, August 6, will be at 0515, in the lobby. Check out will immediately follow, with departure for the airport at 0600.

Please be aware that there is an additional charge for any beverages or food stuffs consumed for each room. These charges are the personal responsibility of each guest and charges will be calculated by the China World upon check out.

Should you or anyone with the Team require assistance during the visit, please contact me.



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003. list	FLOTUS Pre-Advance: China World Hotel Room Listing (1 page)	n.d.	b(7)(E)

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First Lady's Office  
Trip Files - Tour Memorandums, China, Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand  
OA/Box Number: 5924

### **FOLDER TITLE:**

First Lady's Trip Files: China (Beijing): Ms. Patricia Solis Director of Scheduling for  
First Lady

2006-0198-F  
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P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]  
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Shangri-La's

中国大饭店

China World Hotel

BUSINESS CENTER PRICE LIST



国贸饭店

Traders Hotel

CHINA WORLD TRADE CENTER  
BEIJING

# BUSINESS CENTER TARRIF

## Cover Sheet

Mar. 01, 1995

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	A3 size	Rmb 3.00/page
	Staple	Rmb 0.30/set
Word Processing	Chinese	Rmb 85.00/page
	English	Rmb 65.00/page
	Re-Edit	Rmb 30.00/page
	Printing	Rmb 15.00/page
Meeting Room Rental	Whole day (24 hours)	Rmb 3,000.00/day
	Working day (8 hours)	Rmb 1,600.00/day
	Half Working day	Rmb 800.00/half day
	Hostess Service	Rmb 500.00/day
Equip. Rental	Computer - Self Service	Rmb 150.00/hour
	- Asst Service	Rmb 200.00/hour
	Printer - Self Service	Rmb 200.00/hour
	- Asst Service	Rmb 250.00/hour
	TV	Rmb 1,000.00/day
	Video	Rmb 1,000.00/day
	Overhead Projector	Rmb 1,000.00/day
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# BICC

## Beijing International Convention Center

北京国际会议中心



## Beijing Orientation

### Imperial Palace

Gu Gong: sometimes referred to as the "Forbidden City", was the imperial palace complex for the Ming and Qing Dynasties. It therefore, although with necessary renovation and reconstruction, preserves traditional imperial architecture of the past five or six hundred years. It was the center of power for 24 Ming and Qing Emperors. There are two enormous courtyards (inner and outer), six principal halls, and many smaller buildings and pavilions. All together, more than 9,000 rooms are included in the various structures.

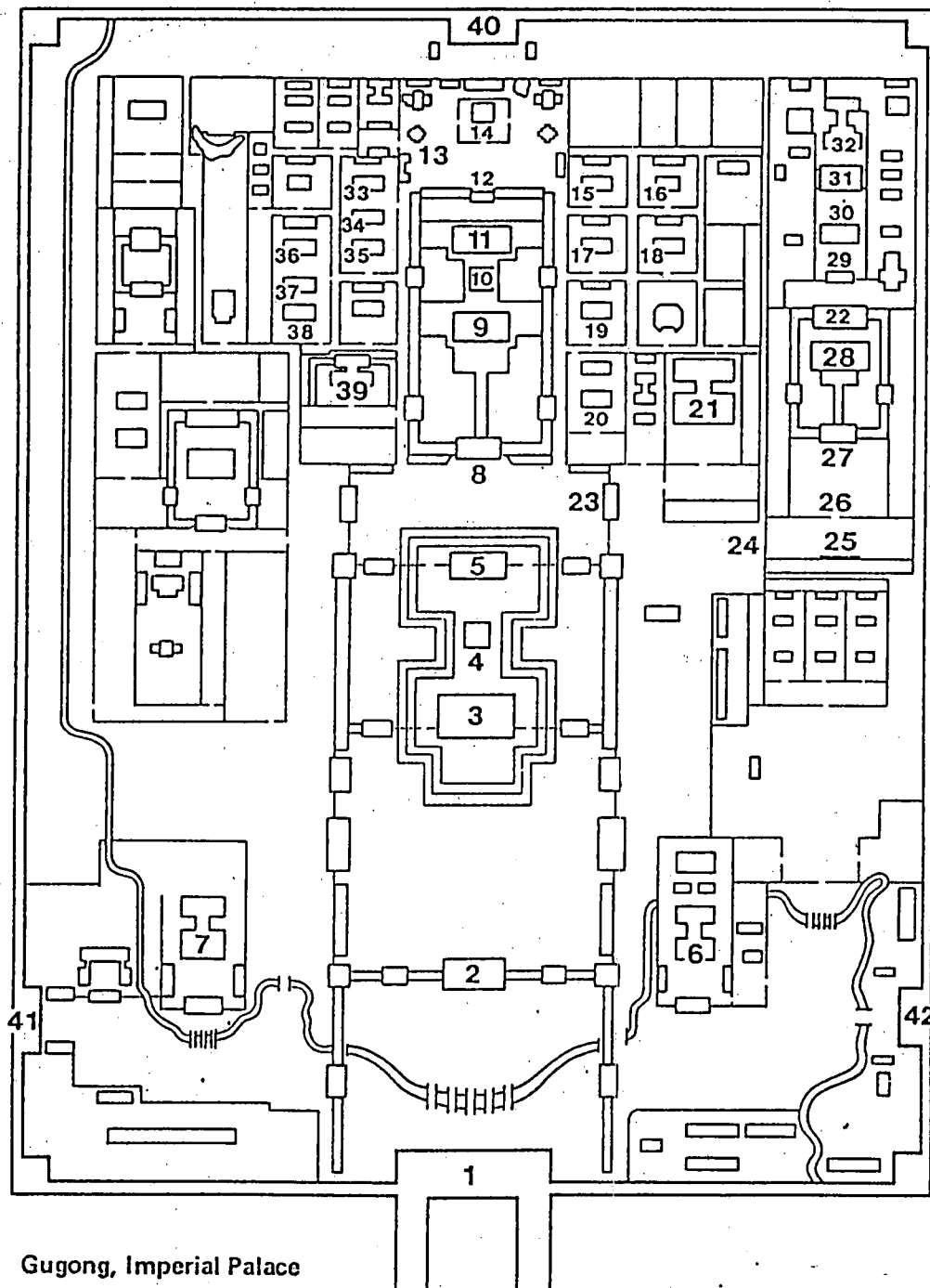
The best way to get a feel for this place might be to rent a copy of "The Last Emperor" video and spend an educational and comfortable evening. The worst way is to either tramp around the premises on a hot summer day with thousands of other tourists or in the winter when it is cold and windy.

The scale of this place is enormous, excessive, as one would expect from an imperial system which isolated itself behind a screen of concubines and eunuchs from the country and people.

We usually recommend that travelers skip Gu Gong, but get a feel for Tiananmen and the square, and then go on to Tian Tan (Temple of Heaven) and Yong He Gong (Emperor Yongzheng's palace when he was a prince) as a better and more comprehensive way of appreciating the imperial presence and architecture in Beijing.

However, if the reader insists on the forbidden city, we provide the following details from Magnificent China pp. 125-127.

Gugong, Imperial Palace



Gugong, Imperial Palace

- |   |                                    |                           |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Wumen, Meridian Gate                         | 16. Jinyang Gong Palace            | 30. Yangxing Dian Hall    |
| 2. Taihe Men, Gate of Supreme Harmony           | 17. Chengqian Gong Palace          | 31. Leshou Tang Hall      |
| 3. Taihe Dian, Hall of Supreme Harmony          | 18. Yonghe Gong Palace             | 32. Yihe Xuan Studio      |
| 4. Zhonghe Dian, Hall of Central Harmony        | 19. Jingren Gong Palace            | 33. Chuxiu Gong Palace    |
| 5. Baohedian, Hall of Preserving Harmony        | 20. Zhaigong Palace                | 34. Tihe Dian Hall        |
| 6. Wenhua Dian, Hall of Literary Glory          | 21. Fengxian Dian Hall             | 35. Yikun Gong Palace     |
| 7. Wuying Dian, Hall of the Martial Spirit      | 22. Ningshou Gong Palace           | 36. Changchun Gong Palace |
| 8. Qianqing Men, Gate of Heavenly Purity        | 23. Jingyun Men Gate               | 37. Tiyan Dian Hall       |
| 9. Qianqing Gong, Palace of Heavenly Purity     | 24. Xiqing Men Gate                | 38. Taiji Dian Hall       |
| 10. Jiaotai Dian, Hall of Union                 | 25. Jiulong Bi, Nine Dragon Screen | 39. Yangxin Dian Hall     |
| 11. Kunming Gong, Palace of Earthly Tranquility | 26. Huangji Men Gate               | 40. Shenwu Men Gate       |
| 12. Kunming Men, Gate of Earthly Tranquility    | 27. Ningshou Men Gate              | 41. Xihua Men Gate        |
| 13. Yuhua Yuan, Imperial Flower Garden          | 28. Huangji Dian Hall              | 42. Donghua Men Gate      |
| 14. Qin'an Dian, Hall of Imperial Peace         | 29. Yangxing Men Gate              |                           |
| 15. Zhongcui Gong Palace                        |                                    |                           |

After passing through Tian'an Men gate, one comes to Wumen, the Meridian Gate (1), the 38-m-high main gate of the palace. It has also been called the Five-Phoenix-Gate because of the five pavilions which tower over the structure on the central part and on both sides of the eastern and western wings of the gate. It was from here that the emperor annually announced the new calendar, presided over military ceremonies and confirmed or annulled death sentences.

Behind Wumen gate, five marble bridges, the inner Golden Water Bridges, span the 2,100-m-long inner Golden Water Spring. After crossing over the moat, a large courtyard with three gates at its northern end is reached. The gates lead into the next courtyard. The middle one, Taihe Men, Gate of Supreme Harmony (2), is the highest of the palace complex. It is 58 m wide and covers an area of 1,800 m<sup>2</sup>. It is guarded by two bronze lions, symbols of power. At the beginning of the Ming Dynasty it was called Fengtian Men, Gate of the Veneration of Heaven, and served the emperor as a reception hall for ministers and generals.

In earlier times, the imperial stores were accommodated in the galleries east and west of the courtyard. Implements of all kinds, jewelry, fabrics, furs and furniture were sold here.

The following courtyard covers an area of more than 30,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The 35-m-high Taihe Dian, Hall of Supreme Harmony (3), stands in the center, followed by Zhonghe Dian, the Hall of Central Harmony (4) and Baohe Dian, the Hall of Preserving Harmony (5), also named Golden Throne Hall or Golden Bell Hall. All three rise on a three-tiered 8.1-m-high marble terrace with a triple marble balustrade.

Taihe Dian, the Hall of Supreme Harmony, is the largest hall of the palace complex with an area of 2,400 m<sup>2</sup>. It has 16 spacial units and 40 gilded doors. Three flights of stairs lead up to the hall; the two outer ones were meant for commoners, and the emperor, himself a 'dragon', sitting in his litter, was carried up the carved marble ramp decorated with a dragon on the central stairs. Eighteen bronze incense burners can be seen on the way to the hall, representing the 18 provinces of Imperial China. On the terrace to the left of the hall is a miniature temple where a grain measure, *jialiang*, was kept; to the right of the hall is a sundial. Both symbolize Imperial justice.

Inside the hall there are 24 columns, 12.7 m high and 1 m in diameter, supporting the richly decorated roof. Eighteen columns are painted red, the six surrounding the throne which

stands on a 2-m-high platform, are gilded and covered with dragons. Above the throne is a magnificent coffered ceiling, decorated with dragons playing ball. The elaborately carved and painted golden throne can be reached via seven steps. A splendid screen stands behind it. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, ceremonies took place here marking great occasions such as ascensions to the throne, imperial weddings and birthday celebrations, official banquets, New Year's celebrations and the announcements of successful candidates in the imperial examinations. During an audience, the emperor's honor guard formed a lane from the hall to Wumen gate. In the order of their rank, civilian as well as military officials had to kneel three times before their emperor and touch the ground with their forehead nine times as a sign of their loyalty and reverence.

Zhonghe Dian, the Hall of Central Harmony (4), is directly behind Taihe Dian on the same terrace. It is the smallest of the three halls. Here the emperor made his final preparations before going to Taihe Dian, the Hall of Supreme Harmony, for high ceremonies and audiences. Some ceremonies took place in Zhonghe Dian, too, for example, the examination of seeds for the new planting or proof-reading of the message that was to be read out in the Temple of the Ancestors.

The third of the three halls is Baohe Dian, the Hall of Preserving Harmony (5). It is a little smaller than Taihe Dian, but more spacious. Minor ceremonies and banquets took place here. The highest level examinations for government officials were also held here — starting with the reign of Qianlong, during the Qing Dynasty; they had previously been held in Taihe Dian. Today art objects are exhibited inside the anterooms to the left and right, including gifts that were presented to the Imperial Court, as well as objects from the imperial household and its treasures.

Behind Baohe Dian is the largest stone slab of the Imperial Palace. The marble dragon slab, 16.6 m long, 3 m wide, and 1.7 m thick is the center piece of the three flights of stairs leading from the terrace down into the courtyard.

Southeast of these halls is Wenhua Dian, Hall of Literary Glory (6) and southwest of them is Wuying Dian, Hall of the Martial Spirit (7). Wenhua Dian was the residence of the crown prince during the Ming Dynasty. At the time of the Qing Dynasty, the emperor and his scholars used it as a place to discuss questions of history and the Confucian classics. At the time of Qianlong's reign, the emperor had Wenhua Dian enlarged by the

addition of Wenyuan pavilion, in which the imperial library, comprising 36,000 volumes, was accommodated.

Wuying Dian served the emperors of the early Ming era as a place where they could stay during fasts and where audiences could be held. When the Ming Dynasty was toppled by a peasant revolt in 1644, the leader of the rebels, Li Zicheng, led the short-lived Dashun Dynasty from here. A little later, his plans were defeated by the Qing troops that invaded Beijing. From then on, the prince regent Duoergun conducted his governmental business in Wuying Dian. During the Kangxi reign, the *Collected Works from the Past and the Present*, the *Kangxi Dictionary* and the *Peiwen Encyclopedia* were compiled in this hall.

One reaches the Inner Court through Qianqing Men, Gate of Heavenly Purity (8). Here the inner chambers of the imperial family are located. Thousands of women and eunuchs lived in this part of the palace; the only man who had access to it was the emperor. Gilded bronze water containers stand to both sides of the gate complex of Qianqing Men. During the Kangxi government period, day-to-day affairs of state were dealt with from here. Three palaces follow. They are also called the Rear Palaces and form the center of the Inner Court: Qianqing Gong, Palace of Heavenly Purity (9), is the first and largest of the three palaces. Built in 1420, it burned down several times. The present edifice dates from 1798. The emperors of the Ming Dynasty resided here; beginning with the Yongzhen period of reign during the Qing Dynasty, it was used as an audience chamber and banquet hall. When rebellious peasants under Li Zicheng's leadership occupied Beijing during the Ming era, the last Ming emperor killed his 15-year-old daughter and some concubines in this hall.

Then he hanged himself from a maple tree at Meishan, Coal Hill, today called Jingshan.

The interior of the Qianqing Palace dates from the Qing era.

In front of the palace are a sundial and a grain measure, symbols of imperial justice, bronze tortoises and cranes, symbols of longevity, and a small gilded bronze tower as well as tripods made of gilded bronze. Over the door of the palace hangs a tablet with the 'sincerity and openness', a calligraphy by the Sunzhi Emperor (1644-1661) which was engraved there under the Kangxi Emperor. Inside the palace is an ornate dragon screen behind the throne. In front of it are bronze cranes and blue cloisonné urns for burning sandalwood.

In the second palace, Jiaotai Dian, the Hall of Union (10), the emperor's birthday was celebrated. Twenty-five imperial seals from the Qianlong era, a bronze clepsydra and a chiming clock are kept here. The coffered ceiling is of exquisite beauty.

Kunning Gong, the Palace of Earthly Tranquility (11), served the empresses of the Ming era as a bedroom. Here Empress Zhou, wife of the last Ming emperor, hanged herself when the rebellious peasants took Beijing at the end of the Ming era.

According to Manchu rituals and customs, the Shunzi Emperor of the Qing Dynasty had the hall changed into a place of worship where a pig was offered to the gods every morning and evening. Today only a few *kangs* (heatable brick beds from North China) and large vats remain.

One room of Kunning Gong, Dongnuan Ge, Hall of Eastern Warmth, served as an imperial bridal chamber during the Qing Dynasty. The hall is covered with wood carvings. Everywhere, on the walls and lamps, the double character *Xi* appears, meaning joy and fertility. The predominant color red is a symbol for joy.



## China Survey Background

### Beijing North

The Great Wall winds across deserts, valleys, plains and mountains from the sea to the extreme west of China. The total length is more than 3,000 miles, although this includes sections which are "doubled" and parts which can barely be traced after centuries of deterioration. North China feudal states were constructing walls as early as the 7th century B.C. Those walls were later linked by a gradual consolidation of political power which accelerated when the Qin Dynasty unified northern China in 221 B.C. Subsequent dynasties extended and renovated the walls in response to pressure from the north. The most extensive work was done during the Han (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) and Ming (1368-1644) periods. The Jin and Song Dynasties attempted to hold this line against the Mongols; however Genghis Khan proved that the effectiveness of fortifications is only as good as the loyalty and courage of the defenders.

The sections of the wall reachable from Beijing are basically Ming Dynasty constructions which have been renovated in places by the present government. There are four choices:

a. Badaling: repaired in 1957 and thronged with visitors. It is possible to walk the wall here, but jostled by hundreds. Traffic can be a problem.

b. Huanghuacheng: unreconstructed and much as seen by Lord Macartney when he passed by in 1793. The wall cannot be walked on at this point, and few persons visit this spot.

c. Mutianyu: Much less crowded than Badaling and the views are perhaps even better. 900 plus steps on a long walkway to the top, or take the cable car in the interest of time and walk down.

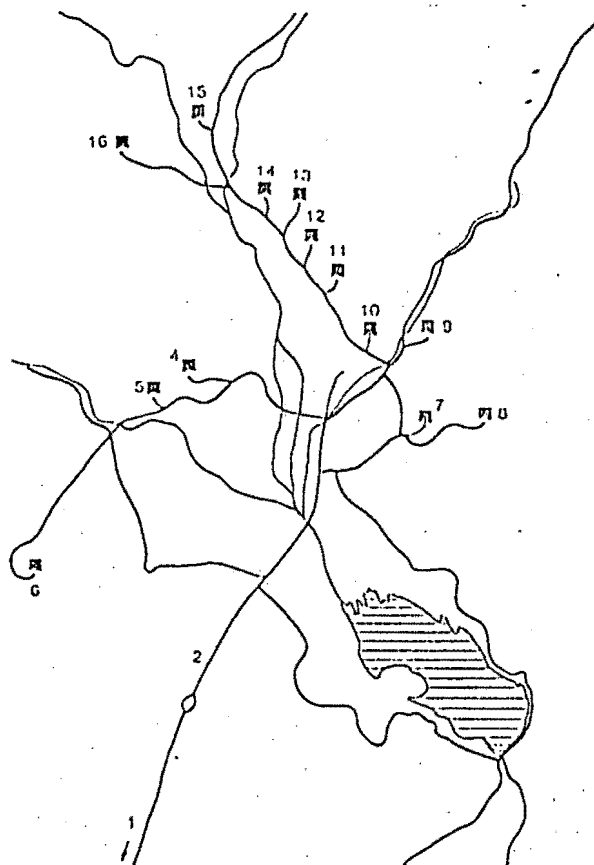
d. Simatai: Few people at this unreconstructed site with steep mountains. Difficult climbing but rewarding experience. Northeast of Beijing.

Options b. and c. also provide an interesting back road excursion to Shisanling if a determined traveler plans to visit a couple of Ming tombs in the same day.

The Ming Tombs are located in an area determined favorable by court geomancers. The mountains to the north held back steppe winds and the bad spirits presumed to ride stormy weather. Thirteen of the sixteen Ming emperors, along with wives/concubines, are buried here. Each site has three parts: the building for preparing sacrifices, the tower for prayers, and the underground vault. Rulers had their burial places prepared during their own lifetime.

As one would have approached the burial valley from Beijing centuries ago, the visitor would have encountered the Dahongmen entrance, Shendao (sacred way), pavilion with memorial stele on the back of a stone tortoise (1426) with a Qianlong inscription, and the avenue of stone sculptures which date from 1435.

Two tombs have been excavated: Changling (Emperor Yong Le 1403-1424) and Dingling (Emperor Wan Li 1573-1620). Both have a kind of crowded amusement park atmosphere. Make a short stop to use the toilet facilities, and then proceed to the less visited but more evocative unreconstructed sites.



Ming Shisan Ling,  
Thirteen Ming Tombs

1. Road to Beijing
2. Sacred Way
3. Shisanling Reservoir
4. Dingling Tomb
5. Zhaoling Tomb
6. Siling Tomb
7. Yongling Tomb
8. Deling Tomb
9. Jingling Tomb
10. Changling Tomb
11. Xianling Tomb
12. Qingling Tomb
13. Yuling Tomb
14. Maoling Tomb
15. Tailing Tomb
16. Kangling Tomb

### Yonghegong (Lama Temple)

Some people consider this the most interesting temple in Beijing. It is certainly the best known Tibetan temple outside of Tibet proper.

The entire complex was the official residence of the Manchu prince who in 1723 became Emperor Yong Zheng. Thereafter this princely residence could not be used for any other purpose other than religious. So in 1744 the complex was converted to a lamasery for the accommodation of monks from Tibet and Mongolia.

In 1792 Emperor Qian Long instituted a system whereby the Lama Temple assumed administrative responsibilities for some aspects of Tibetan and Mongolian Buddhist affairs. The Yellow Sect (Tibetan) is dominant within the temple. Through unsettled circumstances of this century (Warlords, WW II, Civil War, Cultural Revolution) the temple has survived, and since 1949 been listed as a major historical relic.

In 1979 there was major restoration and repair. The temple is active with monks and novices in residence. They study scripture in Tibetan and Yellow Sect practice. The religious activity of the temple is not for the public and photography is not permitted within the temple buildings.

There are five main halls and three principal archways, all in a line. The first hall houses a statue of Maitreya (future) Buddha, and (facing the back door) Weituo, a Buddhist guardian.

The second hall has three figures of Buddha: past, present, and future. The third hall has statues of the Buddhas of Longevity and Medicine. The fourth hall, of the wheel of law, has a large bronze statue of Tsongkapa (1357-1419) founder of the Yellow Sect.

The last hall has a statue of the Maitreya Buddha almost 59 feet tall. The statue was sculpted from one large sandalwood trunk transported from southwest China to Beijing.

## Tiananmen Square

Tiananmen refers specifically to the gate through which one would enter the imperial palace, and colloquially refers to the large square. The gate was first constructed in 1417, burned down in 1457, and received a massive reconstruction in 1651 at the beginning of the Qing Dynasty. The gate was not open to the public during imperial rule. Ceremonies were performed in front of the gate, and imperial decrees were announced from that point.

The square was established in 1651 and it was increased in size during 1958 when city walls were removed. There have been a number of Tiananmen incidents in modern Chinese history.

May 4, 1919: Student movement against unequal treaties.

May 20, 1947: Student movement against civil war.

April 1976: Pro-reform commemoration of Zhou Enlai's death.

April-May 1989: Anti-corruption/special privilege movement.

The square is about 100 acres in size and can hold, fully packed, around one million people. The last time this happened was probably during the cultural revolution when Red Guards assembled for blessing before venturing forth on missions of destruction. In and around the square are:

- a. Monument to People's Heroes (1958), 118 feet high and a lightning rod for protest.
- b. Great Hall of the People (1958-59) which is used for the National People's Congress and other formal meetings. There are 27 reception rooms and numerous large assembly halls, one of which can hold 10,000 people.
- c. Mao Zedong Memorial (1977) which is actually a mausoleum where the embalmed Mao is on display in a crystal sarcophagus.

Qianmen, meaning "front gate", is at the south side of the square. It is on an axis with Tiananmen, but the symmetry is obstructed by the Mao mausoleum. The gate was constructed between 1403-24, and is one of the few remaining ones from the old city wall. It consisted of two separate gate structures, one behind the other, connected by fortified side walls so forming an inner courtyard which functioned as an "air lock" for security purposes. Emperors would pass through this gate on their way to Tiantan for conducting ceremonies which would induce national (imperial) prosperity. Following the boxer rebellion, and American army detachment garrisoned Qianmen until 1927. Communist troops entered the center of the city through this gate in 1949.

## Beijing Survey/Orientation

History: discovery of fossil remains, tools, and other items southwest of the present city demonstrate significant habitation 500,000 years ago. Historical records indicate a settlement along a river near here about 1000 B.C. Over the next two thousand years life in this region was provincial, oriented toward the north, and often governed by non-Han administration.

The Tang Dynasty (617-907) maintained a garrison and trading center here. After about three hundred years of tribal/nomadic turmoil, the Mongols under Genghis Khan seized northern China. Kublai Khan, founder of the Yuan Dynasty, established the national capitol at this location because of its convenient proximity to the Mongol homeland; and so under foreign rule the city became China's political center for the first time. Marco Polo visited China during this period.

After less than 100 years, the Yuan Dynasty (Mongol) was overthrown by the founders of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). At first the capitol was placed in Nanjing; but soon re-located to the north because of the need to be closer to a still sensitive frontier. The city was named Beijing for the first time in 1402. Remaining imperial architecture generally dates from the Ming and successor Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties.

The Qing Dynasty, like the Yuan, was non-Han. The Manchu rulers were increasingly insular, xenophobic, and paranoid. Unable to cope with European incursions, later Qing rulers followed a pattern of threatening before bluffing and finally capitulating to foreign demands. In 1860, British and French troops overran the city, looting and burning along the way. Imperial troops and "Boxers" besieged the foreign legations in 1900 for 45 days. Foreign armies retaliated and the dynasty was overthrown in 1911.

Conditions in Beijing were fundamentally in turmoil for most of the next forty years. Warlords alternated control of the city, there were frequent strikes and demonstrations; and in 1928 the capitol was moved to Nanjing again. Nine years later the Japanese conquered the region and occupied the city until the end of World War II. Civil war, and civil strife, persisted for the next few years. In January 1949 communist troops entered the city and the People's Republic of China was proclaimed from Tiananmen by Mao Zedong on October 1, 1949.

Beijing has had three periods of great change since 1950. The first in 1958-59 involved removal of city walls and most of the gates (a few were retained) in order to widen avenues and initiate a public transportation system. The second was the Cultural Revolution upheaval which affected Beijing from 1965 through 1976. The third period, from around 1982 until now, can be characterized as one of modernization and internationalization.

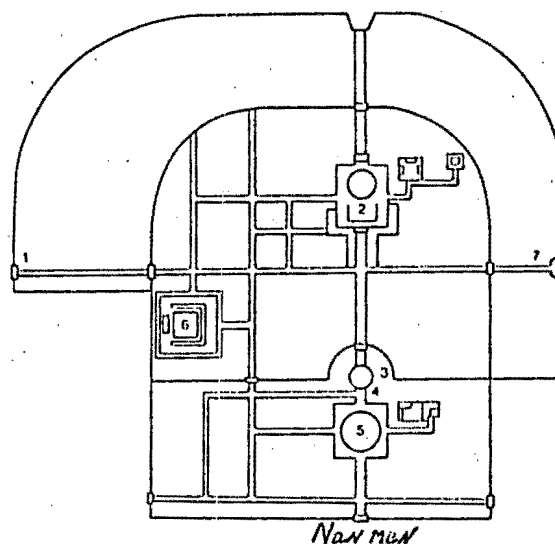
### Tiantan

Tiantan was one of the major temple sites established during the Ming Dynasty as sacred ground for ceremonial rites to be performed by the Emperor to assure good harvests, pay respects to heavenly forces, and seek divine guidance. The last ceremony of that sort was in 1913 by Yuan Shikai. It didn't work for him. The 270 acre site at Tiantan is a contemporary park.

We recommend walking around to explore as much or as little of Tiantan as might be comfortable. The attached notes from Magnificent China with sketch will be useful.

## Tiantan, Temple of Heaven

1. Western Heavenly Gate
2. Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests
3. Imperial Vault of Heaven
4. Echo Wall
5. Circular Mound Altar
6. Hall of Abstinence
7. East Gate



cypress grove leads east to the Qianian Dian, the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests (2). It was built in 1420. After it was hit by lightning and burned down completely in 1889, it was re-erected according to the original plans. It is built on a three-tiered, round stone terrace; each level is encircled by a balustrade of white marble. The hall is a masterpiece of Chinese architecture. It is 38 m high and 30 m in diameter. It was entirely made of wood; not a single nail was used. The triple cone-shaped roof is made of 50,000 blue glazed tiles with a golden point and has neither spars nor beams. It is supported by 28 wooden pillars. The four central columns, called the Dragon Well Pillars, are 19.2 m high. It takes three people to embrace one of them. These four pillars represent the four seasons. Around them are two rings of 12 columns each. The inner one represents the 12 months of the year; the outer one symbolizes the 12 units of time of one day, according to the old Chinese calculation. All 28 of them were made from timber that was transported over thousands of kilometers from Yunnan Province in Southwest China. The brilliant painting of the ceiling vault is representative of Chinese color combinations. The walls of the hall are made of wooden lattice-work doors. In the middle of the floor lies a slab of marble: the Phoenix and Dragon Stone, Longfeng Shi. The imperial symbols can be recognized in its natural veining. The emperor used to pray to heaven for good harvests in this hall.

An elevated path leads south to Huang-qiongyu, the Imperial Vault of Heaven (3). It was built in 1530 and restored in 1752. It also sports a cone-shaped blue tiled roof with a

golden point. It is brilliantly painted inside. The tablets used for ceremonies were kept here for the rest of the year and were only taken out for the ceremonies themselves.

At the surrounding brick wall, Huiyin Bi, the Echo Wall (4), one may experience an interesting acoustic phenomenon. If one stands facing the wall and whispers to another person at the opposite side of the wall, he can understand every word. Another curiosity are the Sanyin Shi, Triple Sound Stones, in front of the steps of the hall. When standing on the first stone, one hears a single echo, on the second, a double and on the third, a triple echo. The mystery behind this phenomenon lies in the varying distances of the slabs to the wall.

South of it lies Huangqiu Tan, Circular Mound Altar (5), a three-tiered stone terrace, enclosed by two walls; the inner one is round, the outer one square. The structure of the altar is based on the number nine. In former times, odd numbers used to be regarded as heavenly. As nine was the most powerful of them all, the altar was constructed with nine plus a multiple of nine stone slabs. The inner circle on the top tier consists of nine slabs, the second of 18, the third of 27, and so on. This order is continued in the central tier. The 27th and final ring of the lower tier consists of 243 stone slabs. When one stands in the center of the upper terrace, speaking in a normal tone of voice, one hears one's own voice considerably louder than the people around. That is due to the fact that the sound waves are reflected by the balustrades and the round wall back to the center of the terrace.

The emperor offered sacrifices to heaven and prayed for good harvests here. Like the Imperial Vault of Heaven, the Circular Mound Altar was built in 1530 and renewed under the Qianlong Emperor in 1749. It must have been a spectacular event when the emperor and his entourage of approximately 1,000 people set out from the Imperial Palace to travel here.

# Key to the (Forbidden) City

The Palace Museum, alias the Forbidden City, is one of the grandest palaces on earth.

For 491 years, it was the home of 24 Ming and Qing dynasty emperors.

Built between 1406 and 1420, the palacial complex covers an area of 150,000 square metres and is said to have 9,999 rooms.

Such a sprawl of architectural structures often confounds first-time visitors. Here is a tip about the best sightseeing route, which is both time- and leg-saving.

Begin your tour at Tiananmen Square. Go through the Gate of Heavenly Peace (Tiananmen) and the Gate of Correct Demeanor (Duanmen). A path of stone blocks leads to the Meridian Gate (Wu'men).

There you buy a 3-yuan entrance ticket, or a 8-yuan (30 yuan FEC for foreigners) passbook that is good for entrance to all exhibits in the palace.

Once inside Meridian Gate, you are in the palace proper. Cross the Inner Gold Water Bridge and the Gate of Supreme Harmony (Taihe'men), and you see a huge courtyard of about 30,000 square metres.

To the north is the magnificent Hall of Supreme Harmony (Taihe'dian), sitting on a white terrace of marble.

After viewing the interior of the hall, walk around it through a side gate, and you will face the Midway Hall of Harmony (Zhonghe'dian) and the Hall of Preserved Harmony (Baohedian).

These are the three main halls in the palace, all sitting on a central axis.

At the back of Baohedian is a huge stone relief, carved with ornate images of dragons and clouds. Imperial documents said the stone carving, 16 metres long and 250 tons in weight, was hauled into the palace along a path of ice.

From here, you walk east, past Jinyuan Gate and enter the Hall of Ancestral Worship (Fengxi'an'dian). The hall has been converted into a museum for vintage clocks. After viewing the exhibits, go further east, and you will see the Nine-Dragon Wall (Jiulong'bi), a glazed-tile screen. Then, head north through the Gate of Imperial Supremacy (Huangji'men) and the Gate of Peace and Longevity (Ningshou'men).

Soon you will be in front of the Hall of Imperial Supremacy (Huangji'dian). The hall is now a museum, its eastern wing a showroom for carvings and engravings and its western wing for antique paintings.

Behind the Hall of Peace and Longevity (Ningshou'gong) is the Gate of Character Cultivation (Yangxin'men) and the Hall of Character Cultivation (Yangxin'dian). There, you can take a look at the finely crafted furniture of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

East of this courtyard is Changying'ge, a building 20 metres high on three levels. Below the bottom level are a well and a pool used for performing dramas involving ghosts. A pumping de-

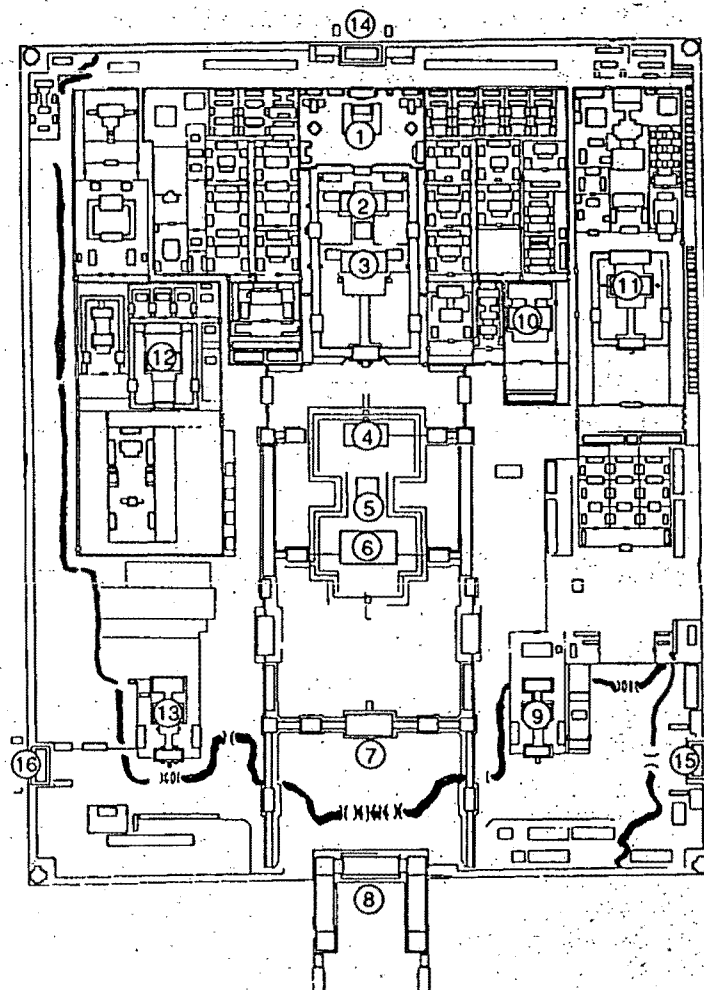
vice would get water onto the stage for special theatrical effects. This used to be the private theatre of the Empress Dowager Cixi. Now it is a museum about the theatrical arts.

West of the Hall of Character Cultivation is the garden of the Palace of Peace and Longevity (Ningshou'gong), which features numerous pavilions, grotesque rockery formations, winding corridors and a labyrinth of cobblestone paths. It is noted for its integration of imperial grandeur and the exquisite gardening style of South China.

Proceeding from Yihexian Gate to the east, you will find a small stone well in a secluded yard. This is where the Emperor Guangxu's consort, Zhen Fei, was drowned by a eunuch acting on the orders of Cixi in 1900.

Come out of Zhenshun Gate and go west, you will arrive at the northern gate of the Forbidden City, called the Gate of Divine Might (Shenwu'men). By now you have seen the main parts of the imperial court. If you have more time and energy, you may want to explore the Hall of Celestial Purity (Qianqing'gong), the Hall of Union and Peace (Jiaotai'dian) and Hall of Terrestrial Tranquility (Kunning'gong) on the northern part of the axis in the Forbidden City, or the Hall of Mental Cultivation (Yangxin'dian), the Hall of Eternal Spring (Changchun'gong), and the Hall of Preserved Elegance (Chuxiu'gong) on the western part of the Forbidden City.

by Wang Ningjun



- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ① Imperial Garden                 | ⑨ Hall of Literary Glory              |
| ② Hall of Terrestrial Tranquility | ⑩ Hall of Ancestral Worship           |
| ③ Hall of Celestial Purity        | ⑬ Hall of Military Prowess            |
| ④ Hall of Preserved Harmony       | ⑭ Gate of Divine Might                |
| ⑤ Midway Hall of Harmony          | ⑮ East Flower Gate                    |
| ⑥ Hall of Supreme Harmony         | ⑯ West Flower Gate                    |
| ⑦ Gate of Supreme Harmony         | ⑰ Hall of the Norms of Government     |
| ⑧ Meridian Gate                   | ⑱ Hall for the Consolation of Mothers |



## AMERICAN EMBASSY, BEIJING, CHINA

### GENERAL EMBASSY INFORMATION

Telephone Access Codes  
China Country Code 86 -- Beijing City Code 10

American Embassy - San Ban, 3 Xiushui Beijie, 100600 Beijing,  
Tel: 532-3831, FAX: 532-6422 or 532-6423

American Embassy - Er Ban, 2 Xiushui Dongjie, 100600 Beijing

SECTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
Administration	532-3431	532-2483
Consular	532-3431	532-3178
Agriculture	532-3431	532-2962

American Embassy - Yi Ban, 17 Guanghualu, 100600 Beijing

SECTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
USIS	532-1161	532-2039
Medical Unit	532-5063	532-6424

American Embassy - Foreign Commercial Service (FCS), 3 Xiushui Beijie, 100600 Beijing, Tel: 532-6924/5/6/7, FAX: 532-3297

American Embassy - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),  
Jianguo Hotel, Room 128-130, 100600 Beijing, Tel: 595-8093,  
FAX: 595-8094

American Embassy - American Center (USIS), Hujialou, Jingguang Center, 28th Floor, 100020 Beijing, Tel: 501-5242, FAX: 501-5247

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Beijing Hospital, 15 Dahualu, Dongcheng District, Tel. 512-6611

Beijing SOS First Aid Center, Qianmen Xidajie, Tel. 601-4433

Beijing Union Hospital, Dongdan, Dongcheng District, Tel. 512-7733, x251

Friendship Hospital, Yong'anlu, Xuanwu District, Tel. 301-4411

Hong Kong International Clinic, 3rd Floor of Swissotel Hong Kong Macao Center, Tel. 512-2288, x2346

International Medical Center, S106 Lufthansa Business Center,  
Tel. 465-1561

Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, Heping Dajie Beikou,  
Chaoyang District, Tel. 422-1122

#### CURRENCY/ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE

CURRENCY -- Renminbi (RMB) yuan (also known as "kuai") comes in denominations of 100, 50, 10, 5, 2, 1 notes. portions of a 1 yuan note is known as jiao (also known as "mao"), and comes in denominations of .50, .20 and .10 notes and coins. The approximate exchange rate at this time is \$1.00 to RMB 8.45.

CREDIT CARDS -- Air China office and the Chinese railway system do not accept any western credit cards. Most common U.S. credit cards are accepted at major hotels, restaurants, Friendship Store branches, government run antique and handicraft shops and factory sales rooms which deal with tourists. Prior to making a purchase, ask if the store accepts "da ka" (credit).

BANK OF CHINA -- Major hotels have exchange counters run by the Bank of China. The bank accepts U.S. currency and most U.S. and foreign issued travelers' checks. The bank located within the Friendship Store is on the second floor and is open from 0900-2000. Other Bank of China locations follow:

-- Head Office, 410 Fuchengmennei Dajie, 100818 Beijing, Tel: 601-6688, FAX: 601-6869

-- Lufthansa Office, S124 Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmahe Road, 100016 Beijing, Tel: 465-1578, FAX: 465-1679

-- Xijiaominxiang Office, 17 Xijiaominxiang, 100031 Beijing, Tel: 601-4422, FAX: 601-5006

-- Beijing Branch, 19 Dong'anmen Street, 100006 Beijing, Tel: 519-9114, FAX: 512-2177

CITIC INDUSTRIAL BANK -- The CITIC Industrial Bank on the ground floor of the CITIC Building, Jianguomenwai Dajie, will cash personal checks upon presentation of an American Express Card and passport. A check can be cashed for RMB, U.S. currency or travelers' checks. A small fee is charged for this service.

### HEALTHFUL HINTS

Common sense factors in when eating and drinking in Beijing. If a restaurant is empty, yesterday's food may be on the menu. If a restaurant is full, the food is fresh. It is wise not to include ice in your drink when not in a western hotel.

WATER -- Most major hotels have their own water treatment systems and the tap water is considered safe to drink. Other than in major hotels, it is advisable to boil drinking water for five minutes. Tea and coffee prepared with boiling water are considered safe to drink. Canned or carbonated bottled beverages (including soft drinks and beer) are also considered safe.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES -- Fruits and vegetables purchased on the street or from local stores should be properly cleaned or peeled before eating. To clean them, wash with detergent, rinse, soak for thirty minutes in a solution containing iodine or chlorine (if using Clorox, ratio is 1 tablespoon to 1 gallon water), and rinse with potable water.

### GETTING AROUND

HAIRDRESSING -- Barber and beauty shops are located in most western hotels and are normally open from 1000-1900. The following hotels have been frequented on a normal basis by Embassy personnel: China World Hotel, Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, Beijing Hotel, Palace Hotel, Lido Hotel, and the Jiangguo Hotel and the International Club.

TRANSPORTATION -- Taxis are available from all major hotels, the International Club, the CITIC Building and the Friendship Store.

Various taxi companies follow (assume that there will be little or no English understood/spoken):

COMPANY	TELEPHONE
Beijing Taxi Company	831-2288
UCR Taxi Company	500-5187
UCR Taxi Co. - Great Wall Hotel	500-5566, x2339 or x2344
UCR Taxi Co. - China World Hotel	505-2277, x6125

NOTE: Most hotels provide a shuttle service to the airport for a nominal fee.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS IN BEIJING -- Historic buildings and monuments may be photographed, but refrain from taking photographs of bridges, obvious military facilities, equipment, and soldiers. ask permission before taking photos in which individuals are the primary subject. taking such pictures without permission is considered discourteous.

#### CLUBS, GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The American Club of Beijing -- the largest social organization for the American Community in Beijing. The club is non-profit and non-political. Club members come from a myriad of occupations. Club membership is open to all adult citizens of the U.S. with an associate membership for interested non-U.S. citizens (family \$50, individual \$30). Membership in the club entitles you to a subscription of the monthly newsletter Peking Post, plus participation in all club activities either sponsored separately or jointly with the American Employees Association of the U.S. Embassy. The club's office is located at the Holiday Inn Lido Club, Jichang Road, Jiang Tai Road, 100004 Beijing, Tel. 456-4045, FAX 437-6237.

American Club Women's Association -- in association with the American Club of Beijing, the Women's Association organizes day-time activities including luncheons with speakers who introduce a variety of aspects of Chinese culture, trips within China, factory visits, tennis lessons, bridge, mahjong and crafts groups, plus volunteer support of all Club activities, including the annual crafts bazaar during the Christmas season.

Professional Women's Network -- the goal of this organization is providing an international organization where professional women can socialize and build a network important to their professional lives, sharing their expertise and experience. The Forum sponsors a monthly luncheon, sometimes with a guest speaker, and plans occasional outings for its members and their families. For more information (or to be added to the mailing list (FAX a copy of your name card)), telephone Karen Tilken at 501-1546 (answering machine/FAX).

Beijing International Society -- an association of foreigners who are interested in China and its culture. The membership encompasses a broad section of the foreign community including diplomats, business people, press, students and foreign experts. A monthly newsletter is sent out with details of the

programs. The society has three to four activities a month, covering a variety of subjects, but always relating to China and its culture. Programs have included a guided walk around Qianhai and Houhai (front and back lakes in Beihai Park), a lecture and outing to "Old Beijing Sites", an outing to the Palace Museum with lecture on the History of Porcelain, a concert at the Central Conservatory of Music and various film showings. Yearly membership is RMB 100 per family, with a lower charge for students and foreign experts.

### SECURITY ISSUES

China has a low crime rate. Americans and other foreigners are seldom the victims of violent crimes, but petty crimes, such as theft, have increased. Most crime remains non-violent, with the victim's lack of awareness of his/her surroundings being the major contributor to the incidents. Crowded public areas such as hotel lobbies, market places, bars, restaurants, as well as public transportation and tourist sites, are risk areas that account for almost all of the reported thefts. Pickpockets are known to frequent these areas. Foreigners are often sought out as targets.

Avoid using unmarked taxis, especially when arriving at the airport. Legal taxis are clearly marked, are metered, and should have the driver's identification clearly displayed.

Petty theft from hotel rooms is uncommon but all visitors are advised not to leave valuables unattended in their rooms. Identification and travel documents, such as passports and airline tickets, need to be safeguarded. Identification should be carried at all times and the use of concealed money belts and abdominal packs is recommended.

Foreigners are frequently approached in tourist areas by individuals offering to exchange U.S. dollars or to sell compact discs. These exchanges are illegal and must be avoided as they could result in adverse police action.

Avoid demonstrations and unauthorized gatherings which might evolve into uncontrolled events.

Visitors and newcomers should have no expectations of privacy for discussions or for written material left unattended. Telephone calls (including faxes) are routinely monitored.

The political climate in Beijing is stable. There is no recent history of active political unrest or international terrorism.

## SHOPPING HIGHLIGHTS

Beijing Carpet Corporation -- 118 Liulichang East Street, Tel. 256-6335.

Chaowai Antique Market -- Located two blocks north of Ritan Park's northwest corner, the south building contains furniture (reconstructed antiques and reproductions of antiques) and the north building contains porcelain and jewelry. Individual deals claim the items are antiques; however, some are clearly reproduced pieces. Bargaining is expected. Hours: 1000-1800.

China World Trade Center -- Located at 1 Jianguomenwai, the China World Complex is full of clothing and arts & crafts shops and stores, with the Wellcome Grocery Store located on the lower level. The Marco Polo Carpet Shop is located in the shopping arcade at L211, Tel. 505-1974.

Cultural Relics Reproduction Shop -- Located at 1 Qinglong Hutong, Beixiaojiebeikou Dongzhimennei, Tel. 401-3354. This shop houses pottery and bronze reproductions of Chinese art objects from all dynasties, including Xi'an soldiers and temple rubbings. Hours: 0800-1200 and 1300-1700, Monday-Saturday.

Dragon House Arts & Crafts Jewelry Shop -- Located at 17 Dongdaqiao, Tel. 502-5810. Specializing in jewelry, this store is well-known for beautiful pieces which are made from old and new treasures. Hours: 0900-1800.

Foreign Language Bookstore -- Located at 219 Wangfujing Street, Tel. 512-6903 or 512-6905. This store carries language books and tapes in the English language. The store also sells music tapes, cd's, artwork and art supplies. Hours: 0900-1900.

Friendship Store -- Located on Jianguomenwai Dajie, Tel. 500-3311. This was the original one-stop shopping center in Beijing. The store has a varied selection of goods offered, from tea, books, food stuffs, arts and crafts, and carpets. This is a state-owned store, accepting major credit cards and travelers checks (passport number required). The Friendship Store also houses Vie de France, Baskin Robbins, The Broadway Cafe, and Pizza Hut. Hours: 0900-2100.

Jingdezhen Porcelain -- Located at 149 Qianmen Street, Tel. 303-2613 or 301-4823, the porcelain store contains a wide selection of dinner place settings, coffee and tea sets and unusual pieces. Prices range from reasonable to expensive. Hours: 0900-1730.

Liulichang Cultural Street -- Liulichang Street is located by Nan Xinhua Street in Xuanwu District (directly west of Qianmen Street) -- Rongbaozhai is one store, located at 19 W. Liulichang, Tel. 303-0097. Numerous stores containing antiques, reproductions, calligraphy, chops, carpets, stone rubbings, artwork, ink and brushes, lanterns, and musical instruments are housed on this street. These stores are state-run and accept major credit cards and travelers checks.

Lufthansa Center -- Located on the third ring road near the Kempinsky Hotel, Tel. 465-1851. This German-Chinese joint venture has a wonderful selection of arts and crafts, including cloisonne, porcelain, artwork, laquerware, and printed silks. This is a one-stop shopping center, including a grocery in the basement. Hours: 0900-2100.

Shen De Ge (Shard Box Man) Art & Crafts Shop -- No. 1 Ritan Bei Lu, Tel. 500-3712. A small shop north of Ritan Park, dealing in jewelry as well as shard and silver-plated boxes. The work is reasonably priced and is of good quality.

"Silk Alley"/"Yong An Li Alley" -- Located next to the Bulgarian Embassy, the alley runs to Jianguomenwai. The alley is made up of individual stalls which sell clothing (silk and cashmere), quilts and odds and ends. Bargaining is expected. Hours: 1000-sundown.

Theatrical Prop and Costume Shop -- Located at 32 Xicaoshi Street (Zhu Shi Kou area), Tel. 702-2853. This store offers a range of Peking Opera supplies for sale. Hours: 0900-1700.

White Peacock Art World -- Located on Beibinhe Lu, Deshengmenwai (on the bike path north of the Second Ring Road), Tel. 201-1199. This state-owned store houses an excellent selection of arts and crafts, carpets and wall hangings. The store is able to assist with the overseas shipment of goods purchased. Hours: 0900-1830.

Yuan Long Embroidery and Silk Company -- Located at 55 Tiantan Lu (across from the Temple of Heaven), Tel. 702-4059 or 702-0682, the store offers silk, satin, embroidery, fur, carpet, porcelain and cloisonne products at reasonable prices. Hours: 0900-1900.

Zheng Yang Ge Arts & Crafts Shop -- Located in the Zhengyanglou Building, Qianmen Street, Tel. 522-9384. This shop specializes in reproductions of historical relics housed in the Palace Museum. Hours: 0800-1800.

## RESTAURANT HIGHLIGHTS

### CHINESE FOOD

"Hot and Prickly" Sichuan -- Located in the "Yong'an Xili" Vegetable Market off of Jianguomenwai (across from the Friendship Store), Tel. 595-7687 or 502-4291. This is the famous and "authentic" Sichuan restaurant, is a local "down 'n' dirty" kind of place with very safe and good Sichuan food.

Tuan Jie Hu Roast Duck Restaurant -- Located at 3 Tuan Jie Hu Bei Kou (East of Zhao Long Hotel), Tel. 507-2892 or 507-4003. Many will claim that this is one of the best duck restaurant's in Beijing. The restaurant can accommodate groups with advance notice. The RMB 100/per person menu is more than anyone can eat and well worth it.

### HOTEL/WESTERN FOOD

Atrium Cafe -- Located in the Hilton Hotel, Tel. 466-2288. Good food and atmosphere at this cafe, with a diverse lunch buffet. Hours: 1130-1400 and 1930-2130, Sunday brunch 1100-1400.

Coffee Shop -- Located at the China World Hotel. This is a very pleasant restaurant with a very diverse menu. Breakfast and lunch provide a buffet option.

Frank's Place -- Located on Dongdaqiao Dajie. This is the "old American hamburger spot" in Beijing. Most people go to Frank's for the American bar atmosphere and the good burgers and excellent chili.

Hard Rock Cafe -- Located on the Third Ring Road in the Northeast of Beijing. A true Hard Rock, carrying the same reliable food, drinks, rock 'n' roll, and t-shirts as its counterparts world-wide.

Justine's -- Located in the Jianguo Hotel, Tel. 500-2233, x8039. Upscale french restaurant with an excellent menu. The breakfast buffet is very good and the food is consistent, reliable and of top quality. Reasonable set lunch weekdays. Hours: 1200-1430 and 1830-2230.



La Fleur -- Located in the China World Hotel (2nd Floor), Tel. 505-2266. Upper end french restaurant with reliable and good french food with a romantic setting. Hours: 1130-1430 and 1830-2230.

Lousiana -- Located in the Hilton Hotel, Tel. 466-2288. Very good cajun and southwestern cuisine surrounded by a New Orleans atmosphere. Catch of the day and regional specialities join nightly set menu specials, with a jazz band performing Tuesday through Thursday. Hours: 1130-1400 and 1800-2200, Dinner only Sundays.

Paulaner Brauhaus -- Located in the Luftansa Center. An excellent and popular restaurant for lunch or dinner with a good menu. The selection of food is broad, including good fish entrees. The beer is brewed on site and the atmosphere is lively. Hours: 1130-1430 and 1800-2200.

Roma Restaurant -- Located in the Palace Hotel, Tel. 512-8899. An excellent upscale italian/continental restaurant. The atmosphere is elegant, quiet and sophisticated, with matching service. Hours: 1130-1430 and 1830-2300.

Schiller's -- Located across from the Lufthansa Center (to the north), Tel. 461-9276. This is an "American" sandwich restaurant with a flare all its own. The menu and decor are western, providing a place in Beijing to call "home".

Trader's Cafe -- Located at the Trader's Hotel (behind the China World). This is a lobby "coffee shop" cafe. Good lunch and Sunday brunch buffets with their Terrace Cafe on the patio.

## SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS: VARIOUS PLACES OF INTEREST

The following material was gathered from Lonely Planet: China and The Official Beijing Guide. Please refer to these guides for additional details.

Acrobatics -- Chaoyang Theater, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Tel. 507-2421; and Erqi Theater, 15 Erqijuchanglu, Fuxingmenwai Dajie, Tel. 852-6262.

Ancient Observatory -- Located at the Jianguomennei Dajie and Second Ring Road overpass.

Beihai Park -- Located northwest of the Forbidden City, Beihai Park is the former playground of the emperors and was frequented by Marco Polo.

Beijing Opera -- Liyuan Theater, Qianmen Hotel, Yong'anlu, Tel. 301-6688, x8860; Guanghe Theater, 46 Luomashi Dajie, Tel. 702-1458; People's Theater, 74 Huguosi Dajie, Tel. 602-2476; Beijing Worker's Club, 7 Hufangqiao Lu, Tel. 303-2594; and Zhonghe Theater, 5 Liangshidian Jie, Tel. 303-7083.

Beijing Zoo -- Located in western Beijing.

Black Temple -- Located at the east end of Lumicang Hutong, east of Chaoyangmen Nanxiaojie.

China Art Gallery -- Located at the Dongsu intersection.

Confucius Temple -- Located opposite the Lama Temple in northern Beijing.

Dance Performances -- Poly International Theater, Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Tel. 501-0290; Century Theater, 21st Century Hotel, 40 Nan Liangmaqiaolu, Tel. 466-3311, x3149; Beijing Theater, 10 Anhuili Sanqu, Tel. 491-1228; Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Tel. 835-4455; Auditorium of the Nationalities Cultural Palace, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Tel. 602-2530; Workers' Gymnasium, Xinzhongjie, Tel. 502-4558; and Capital Gymnasium, 54 Baishiqiaolu, Tel. 831-3926.

Ditan Park (Temple of the Earth) -- Located north of the Lama Temple.

East Cathedral -- Located at 74 Wangfujing.

Grandview Garden -- Located in southwest Beijing.

Great Bell Temple -- Located on Beisanhuan Xilu, east of the Friendship Hotel.

Great Hall of the People -- Sitting on Tiananmen Square, this is the site of the National People's Congress.

Guangji Temple (Universal Rescue) -- Located on the northwest side of Xisi intersection, just east of the Dagoba Temple.

History Museum & Museum of the Revolution -- Located on the east side of Tiananmen Square.

Jingshan Park (Coal/Prospect Hill) -- Located north of the Forbidden City. This is an artificial hill made by earth which was excavated in order to build the Forbidden City moat. Ten Thousand Springs Pavilion sits at the summit of the hill, allowing for breath-taking views of the Forbidden City and Beijing.

Lama Temple -- Located at the Yonghegong subway station, in northern Beijing.

Longtan Park (Dragon Pool) -- Located in southeast Beijing and contains the Beijing Amusement Park.

Lu Xun Museum -- Located off Fuchengmennei Dajie, was of the Xisi intersection on the northwestern side of Beijing.

Military Museum -- Located on Fuxing Lu, in western Beijing.

Ming Tombs -- Located 50 kilometers northwest of Beijing, the Ming Tombs consist of 13 tombs which are spread apart in a valley by several kilometers. Visitors are able to enter two of the Ming Tombs which have been excavated and set up for tourism.

National Library -- Located west of the Beijing Zoo.

Natural History Museum -- Located just west of Tiantan Park.

Niujie Mosque -- Located south of Guang'anmennei Dajie.

North Cathedral -- Located at Xishiku, in western Beijing.

Old Summer Palace -- The original Summer Palace was laid out in the 12th century. By the reign of Emperor Qianlong, it had developed into a set of interlocking gardens. Qianlong set the Jesuits to work as architects of European palaces for the gardens, adding elaborate fountains and baroque statuary. In the second Opium War (1860), British and French troops destroyed the place. The ruins have long been a favorite picnic spot for foreign residents and Chinese twosomes seeking a bit of privacy.

Ritan Park (Temple of the Sun) -- Located in the Jianguomenwai Embassy area.

Song Qingling Museum -- Located on the north side of Shisha Houhai Lake.

South Cathedral -- Located on Qianmen Dajie at Xuanwumen.

Summer Palace -- One of Beijing's finest sights, the Summer Palace is an immense park containing some newish Qing architecture. The site had long been a royal garden and was considerably enlarged and embellished by Emperor Qianlong in the 18th century. The original palace was used as a summer residence. The residents of the Forbidden City packed up and decamped here for their holidays, so the emphasis was on cool features -- water, gardens, hills. It was divided into four sections: court reception, residences, temples and strolling or sightseeing areas.

Symphony -- Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinghuajie, Tel. 601-8091; and Haidian Cinema-Theater, 84 Huangzhuang, Haidianlu, Tel. 255-8026.

Taoranting Park (Happy Pavilion) -- Located in southern Beijing.

Theater Performances -- Capital Theater, Wangfujing Dajie, Tel. 524-9847; China Children's Art Theater, 64 Dong'anmen Dajie, Tel. 513-4121 or 512-9689; Qingyi Theater, 95 Dongdan Beidajie, Tel. 513-6208; and Experimental Theater of the Central Academy of Dramatic Arts, 39 Dongmiahua Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Tel. 401-7894.

Tiananmen Square -- Though its was a gathering place and the location of government offices in the imperial days, the square is Mao's creation, as is Chang'an Jie leading into it. Major rallies took place here during the Cultural Revolution when Mao, wearing a Red Guard armband, reviewed parades of up to a million people.

Surrounding the Square are the following monuments and buildings: Gate of Heavenly Peace (Tiananmen), History Museum, Museum of the Revolution, Great Hall of the People, Qianmen (front gate), the Mao Mausoleum and the Monument to the People's Heroes.

Tiantan Park (Temple of Heaven) -- Located in southern Beijing. The park has come to symbolize Beijing. The park originally functioned as a vast stage for solemn rites performed by the Son of Heaven who came here to pray for good harvests, seek divine clearance and atone for the sins of the people. Tiantan was considered highly sacred ground and the place that the emperor performed major ceremonial rites during the year.

White Cloud Temple -- Located directly south of the Yanjing Hotel, off of Baiyun Lu.

White Dagoba Temple -- Located near Fuchengmennei Dajie.

Wuta Temple -- Located northwest of the Beijing Zoo.

Xu Beihong Museum -- Located at 53 Xijiekou Beidajie, Xicheng District.

Yuetan Park (Temple of the Moon) -- Noted for the Emei Restaurant (north side of the park), which serves authentic Sichuan food.

Yuyuantan Park (Jade Hole Pool) -- Located in western Beijing, the park borders Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

Zhongnanhai -- China's new forbidden city, Zhongnanhai is off-limits to tourists. The compound was first built between the 10th and 13th centuries as a sort of playground for the emperors and their retinues. It was expanded during Ming times but most of the present buildings only date from the Qing

Dynasty. After the overthrow of the imperial government and the establishment of the Republic it served as the site of the presidential palace.

Zhongshan Park -- Attached to the Forbidden City off of Tiananmen Square, this was the sacrificial altar of the Ming and Qing courts.

Zizhuyuan Park (Purple Bamboo) -- Located just west of the Beijing Zoo.